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OPINION METER

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IMF Chief

Christine Lagarde becomes the first woman to lead the IMF.

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Here's a secret to saving on expensive sports equipment.

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Diana at 50

The latest Newsweek cover contains a computer-generated image of a stylish Princess Diana.

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House grudgingly OKs \$102M budget resolution. PAGE 3

NMC enforces austerity Fridays

» **8-hour work hour cut to take effect 'til end of fiscal year**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Employees of the Northern Marianas College are no longer exempted from the government-wide austerity Fridays with the enforcement of 10-percent salary cut effective July 15 this year. The austerity measure involves a reduction of eight hours per pay period and will be applied every other Friday.

Interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, in a statement yesterday, said this step was a result of the anticipated budget shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Federally funded employees and officers at the college will be exempted from the austerity measure to comply with grant terms and conditions and approved plans.

It was earlier reported that NMC's

budget allotment through Sept. 30 will be reduced by \$340,000—or 7.58 percent. Because of this, the college was asked to adjust its spending to sustain operations up to the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2011.

See NMC on Page 4

Mobil gas prices down 10 cents

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Pump prices of gasoline at Mobil Oil Marianas service stations went down by 10 cents a gallon late Tuesday afternoon, a little over a month after another 10-cent rollback on May 26.

The price of crude oil has been on a decline since May. It now hovers near \$93 per barrel compared to over \$100 per barrel weeks ago.

Shell Marianas' pump prices remained

See MOBIL on Page 4



CLARISSA V. DAVID

SSHS lass is 2011 Liberation Day Queen

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Fifteen-year-old Joni C. Castro has been proclaimed the 2011 Liberation Day Queen in a brief ceremony at the Mayor's Office conference room yesterday.

Castro won the competition for the most number of raffle tickets sold for the annual Liberation festivities. She sold over \$6,250 worth of tickets.

The ninth grader at Saipan Southern High School expressed surprise and happiness after hearing her name called

See SSHS on Page 4

2011 Liberation Day Queen Joni C. Castro, center, Royal Princess Nizelynn T. Masayos, fourth from right, and 1st runner up Mariah I. Ada, third from left, are flanked by their mothers, Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores, and 2011 Liberation Committee chair Jonas Barcinas after the announcement of winners at the Mayor's Office conference room yesterday. The coronation night for the three winners will be held Saturday evening.

DPS divers begin underwater search

» **Still no trace of Luhk sisters; search enters 6th week**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety began

an underwater search at some locations on Saipan yesterday but failed to find any trace of missing sisters Faloma and Maileina Luhk.

Press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that DPS Boating Safety divers began the underwater search operation and investigation in select coastlines around the island.

Demapan, however, refused to disclose the locations covered by yesterday. **See DPS on Page 4**



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A price display at a Mobil Oil Marianas service station in Sadog Tasi yesterday afternoon reflects the new pump prices of gasoline following late Tuesday afternoon's price cut of 10 cents a gallon.



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Local

CNMI visitor arrivals down 13 percent in May 2011

May 2011 visitor arrivals to the CNMI were down 13 percent compared to May 2010, reflecting fewer bookings from the primary source markets of Japan and Korea following the March 11 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis in Japan.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 23,451 visitors last month compared to 27,015 in May 2010.

Overall, visitor arrivals are down 4 percent this fiscal year to 288,388 visitors. Arrivals from Japan dropped 34 percent

to 7,567. While cancellations resulting from the Japan crisis tapered off in April, fewer new bookings were made for May. However, based on industry projections, the MVA is optimistic about bookings for the summer period beginning in July. In May 2011 the CNMI received only two daily flights from Narita compared to three daily flights in May 2010, another negative effect on Japan figures.

"The last time arrivals rates from Japan were this low was in 1984, while the last time overall arrivals were this low were in

October 2001, right after 9-11," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio.

"At that time, Japan accounted for 65 percent of all visitors, so we can see the importance of having diversified our tourism markets. In May 2011 Japan comprised only 32 percent of total arrivals, Korea also comprised 32 percent of arrivals, and the market share of China was 23 percent. China is sustaining our tourism economy in a significant way at this time," he added.

Meanwhile, arrivals from the primary market of Korea were

also strongly influenced by the Japan disaster, dropping 24 percent to 7,303 arrivals. Asiana Airlines decreased the number of daytime flights from Incheon to Saipan from four to two flights weekly from May 17 to July 17, but maintained Boeing 767 service with 250 seats instead of downgrading the aircraft to the Airbus 322 with 177 seats, as originally planned. This resulted in a loss of 1,250 seats during May, which continued into June. Nevertheless, Korea has registered 5 percent growth overall this fiscal year.

The secondary market of China saw 5,383 arrivals in May, a 70-percent increase compared to the same month last year. Sichuan Airlines launched two weekly charter flights each from Shanghai and Guangzhou in May 2011, adding to two existing flights from Shanghai.

Arrivals from the lucrative market of Russia continued to show improvement over last year, rising 6 percent to 324. Visitor arrivals from the United States also rose 62 percent to 1,209 in May, largely due to visits by three military ships. Meanwhile, arrivals were down from Guam (-4 percent to 1,386), the Philippines (-31 percent to 43), and Other Areas (-5 percent to 212).

Japan and Korea economic highlights

The Japanese Cabinet maintained its cautious outlook on the economy, attributing the current weakness to the March 2011 earthquake.

The Japanese government is preparing to legally require corporations that use more than 500 kilowatts to reduce their weekday power consumption by 15 percent. Failure to comply can result in fines of up to 1 million yen (\$12,300). As a result, a number of auto and other manufacturers have announced plans to give their employees extended summer vacations, which creates new opportunities to promote overseas travel. The Japan Association of Travel Agents' Visit World Campaign seized this opportunity to move

forward with the second phase of its campaign to promote longer trips overseas. JATA began a Japan advertising campaign with messages such as, "stay a bit longer" or "spend an extra night."

Japan's outbound travel industry has been fairly resilient to the earthquake, although mainstream destinations such as China, South Korea, the Northern Marianas, and Guam are seeing moderate decreases.

According to the Bank of Korea, Korea's economy sharply accelerated in the first quarter of 2011 due to robust exports and improving private consumption. Real GDP grew 1.4 percent in the first quarter from a quarter earlier, compared to the 0.5 percent gain in the fourth quarter of 2010, showing positive growth for nine straight quarters. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development raised its outlook for Korea's economic growth to 4.6 percent for this year.

According to the Korea Tourism Organization the number of Korean outbound travelers in April was 867,487, a decrease of 7.3 percent compared to the same month in 2010. The total number of Korean outbound travelers from January to April was 4,095,816, an increase of 4.7 percent compared to the same period of 2010.

The country's two major airlines, Korean Air and Asiana Airlines, have extended their peak season period in which airfares are raised. The airlines added 19 days and 27 days respectively to the current peak season. (MVA)

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House grudgingly OKs \$102 million budget resolution

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While some members of the House of Representatives believe that less than \$100 million would be available for government operations in fiscal year 2012, the House still went ahead and adopted yesterday afternoon a concurrent resolution approving a \$102 million budget.

However, if and when the Fitial administration announces by the July 1 deadline a change in projected revenues, the House will have to recall House Concurrent Resolution 17-3, House Draft 1, said Ways and Means chairman Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan).

Basa believes that the revised \$102 million is a "slightly optimistic" figure.

"I believe actual revenue for government operations will be lower than that," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Basa's HCR 17-3 passed by a vote of 19-1.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), the only one who voted "no" on the concurrent resolution, said the CNMI will be lucky to even have \$95 million in actual revenue for government operations in 2012.

Fiscal year 2012 will be from Oct. 1, 2011, to Sept. 30, 2012.

"Those projected figures are obsolete. They're way off mark. They were formulated even before the March 11 Japan disasters. And we're just talking about projected revenues, not spending. I believe the budget would be less than \$100 million, maybe \$95 million," said Tenorio, a former governor and speaker.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said the 2012 bud-

get bill reflects the governor's \$102 million budget, but even he does not expect this much.

"The deadline for the governor to submit the 2012 budget was on April 1, but they worked on the projections way ahead of that," Cabrera said.

As of yesterday afternoon, the Fitial administration indicated that "it's almost impossible to see an upward change," Cabrera said. If there's going to be an announcement of change in projected revenues, "it will be a downward" one.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday, said: "At this time, the administration does not have any changes to report."

"Nonetheless, it will continue to monitor the financial trends of revenues coming in. Should there be an immediate need to make any adjustments even after July 1, the administration can and will communicate any such developments to the Legislature," he said.

Cabrera said the administration may be waiting for the June 30 monthly deadline for filing business gross revenue tax and see whether there's improvement in collections, before preparing a final report to the Legislature.

More than a decade ago, the CNMI's government budget was over \$200 million.

'Hold public hearing'

During discussions on HCR 17-3, minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) urged his colleagues to consider holding off action on the measure until they hear directly from the administration or the Finance Department whether the projected revenues available for government operations still stand at

\$102 million.

Minority members, including Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), questioned the lack of public hearing or meeting with Finance before introducing the resolution.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), for his part, said the administration figures did not come from thin air.

"I believe they're a sound estimate," he said.

Benavente said it is likely that the Senate will hold a public hearing.

Basa made an oral amendment to his own concurrent resolution, citing "oversight" on the part of the Ways and Means Committee. His amendment put

the figure "\$2,931,329" as projected revenue from the Department of Public Lands instead of the "zero" indicated in the original concurrent resolution.

Under the four-page resolution, the total identified budgetary resource is \$120,679,000, based on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's budget submission of April 1. But because members adopted an oral amendment on DPL revenue, this figure was changed to over \$123 million.

Of this amount, \$102 million is the total local revenue and resources available for appropriation for the CNMI government's activities in 2012. The rest will go toward other obligations such as bond payments and other earmarks.

'Payless payday'

As of yesterday afternoon, the Fitial administration does not expect timely payroll for non-critical government employees today.

The press secretary said as of Wednesday, the Finance Department is projecting timely payroll for critical services and federally funded personnel "only" due to a shortage in cash availability.

"However, Finance continues to actively monitor the government's daily cash flow. So in the event that there is a significant change reflecting the availability of additional funds, the department will be able to disburse all other remaining payroll

checks," he said.

Government employees on Capital Hill said they were hoping that they will get their paychecks today or tomorrow.

"If not, then we will have a long Fourth of July weekend without money," one of them said.

Since June 2010, the government has been delayed at least 16 times in issuing paychecks to "non-critical" employees. This week may be the 17th time.



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Fitial to meet with House leadership today

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will meet today with members of the House of Representatives leadership on a host of issues that could include financial challenges and means to generate revenue and cut spending.

“It will be an open dialogue. We want to hear from the governor, and we want the governor to hear us,” said House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

He said he will raise with the governor the delays in the permitting process faced by foreign investors.

“We want to know whether there’s something the Legislature can do to ensure that the application of investors do not get delayed. Maybe there are laws that need to be amended or the agen-

cies need to change the regulations,” Cabrera said.

He said a group of Japanese investors, for example, has been waiting for months for their permit applications to be approved.

“But the problem is, they’re not even told where the delay is, or which agency has problems with their application,” said Cabrera.

He added that the investor group will be pulling out of the CNMI if the application is not approved by September. They will move to either the Philippines or Bali, Indonesia.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said he has yet to see an agenda for this meeting.

“But the governor would definitely like to discuss matters relating to the budget and the economic challenges that continue to impact the Commonwealth,” he said.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said he wants to hear from the governor whether there are changes to the \$102 million budget package for fiscal year 2012, among other things.

He said the governor may also discuss about other investors eyeing the CNMI, including one group planning to undertake an alternative power project.

As of late yesterday afternoon, there’s no final venue yet for the meeting that the House leadership

Rotary installs new officers for 2011-2012

Saipan Rotary Club president Pete Igitol and the rest of the officers and directors for 2011 to 2012 were installed in a ceremony held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Tuesday evening.

The other officers are Pete Schilling, vice president; Laila Boyer, secretary; Yosh Gabaldon, treasurer; Richard Cody, Community Service director; Jay Santos, Club Service director; Kelley Butcher, Vocational Service director; Glen Perez, International Service director; Jeff Boyer, New Generation Service director; Kim Forrester, Foundation Service director; and Wayne Gillespie, sergeant-at-arms.

After the swearing in officiated by associate judge Perry Inos, past presi-

dent Glen Perez officially passed the gavel to Igitol.

Igitol, in his remarks, challenged all Rotarians to continue their “humanitarian and charitable efforts” in the Commonwealth despite all the challenges that lie ahead for the organization.

Igitol, who has been with the Saipan Rotary Club since its inception, said the club will continue to sponsor and support its various projects, which include the Parade of Books, the Third Grade Dictionary project, the man’amko, and the 20th Annual Rotary Youth Basketball League.

He said the Saipan Rotary Club will also take on new endeavors that focus on the youth in the community through

a youth-oriented project such as an apprenticeship program.

Citizen of the Year

Igitol and past president Perez also presented the Citizen of the Year award to Rocball founder James W. Feger, who attended the ceremony with his wife Barbara.

Rocball, the islands’ only indigenous sport, was created by Feger in 1979 and copyrighted a few years after.

“I’m very honored and proud,” he told *Saipan Tribune*. “I thank the Saipan Rotary Club for this recognition. I dedicate this to all Rocball players on island. This award is as much to them as it is for me.”

A plaque of appreciation was also presented to Perez. **(Clarissa V. David)**

MOBIL

From Page 1

unchanged as of late yesterday afternoon. The two oil giants have been historically mirroring each other’s price changes, so motorists expect Shell to follow Mobil’s price cut.

Regular unleaded gasoline at Mobil is now \$4.659 a gallon, after Tuesday’s price reduction. Super unleaded gasoline now costs \$4.979 a gallon.

Diesel also went down to \$5.119 a gallon. Residents said this is still higher than the CNMI’s current minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour.

Cris Pangelinan, 28, said yesterday that while he welcomes the 10-cent price cut, he’s hoping that Mobil and Shell will go back to its old prices at the start of the year.

At the start of the year, regular unleaded gas was \$4.259 a gallon.

Prior to the two price reductions so far this year, regular unleaded gas price

peaked at \$4.859 a gallon, while diesel was at \$5.319 a gallon. Gas prices on Rota and Tinian almost reached \$7 a gallon.

“But I am actually hoping they could drop it by \$1, so that gas prices will only be over \$3 a gallon instead of over \$4,” said Pangelinan in an interview at the Mobil-Sadog Tasi service station.

Pangelinan said he is currently unemployed but is pursuing studies at Northern Marianas College. He said he lives on Capital Hill, and has to drive his father to the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan almost every day, then go to NMC, and pick up or drop off other family members.

“Gas price is affecting our family’s budget. We try to limit our trips to the important ones like going to school and the hospital,” he added.

Despite the 20-cent total rollback in May and June, CNMI gas prices are still among the highest in the United States.

Noribel Mendez, who works two jobs as a cashier and as a car rental sales

and marketing staff, said she’s relieved that gas prices dropped by another 10 cents but she also hopes that power and water rates will also go down.

“If only CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] also brings down its rates, then people would be more relieved,” she said, adding that she spends over \$40 a week on gasoline.

Gennaro Cioffi, president and lead country manager for Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., earlier said that when wholesale prices of crude oil and gasoline decrease, it brings a positive impact on pump prices.

Retail pump prices are affected by a combination of factors, which include internationally traded wholesale prices, operating and capital cost, distribution costs, taxes and duties, currency exchange rates, and market competition.

Shell and Mobil do not issue advance notices of price increases, so many Saipan motorists only learn of price changes by the price displays at gasoline stations.

NMC

From Page 1

Academic programs will not be affected

Despite the reduction in work hours, Cabrera assured that this will not affect the institution’s academic programs. Although some classes in the new semester may need to be rescheduled, she said there will be no cancellation of programs.

“It should be stressed that the reduction in work hours in no way affects the quality of academic instruction at the college. NMC is moving at full speed in preparation for the upcoming fall 2011 semester and, although some classes may need to be rescheduled, none will be canceled because of the

new austerity measure,” she said in the statement.

Cabrera added that the action is to ensure that NMC’s limited financial resources are sufficient to support student learning programs and services.

Saipan Tribune learned that from the original earmark of \$4.4 million in fiscal year 2011, NMC’s annual budget was cut to \$4.1 million. Effective April 1, the projected monthly allotment for NMC is \$315,593 for personnel cost and operation. Based on the adjusted allocation, NMC only has \$1.8 million left until September.

Based on college record, NMC has over 200 personnel, including instructors, non-instructional faculty, staff, and administrators.

Not an easy decision

Cabrera said the cut in works hours is

“not an easy decision” but assured that all affected parties were consulted before its implementation.

“Although it was not an easy decision to make, the austerity measures we’ve set in motion has the support of our students, staff, and faculty.”

This summer, NMC also shortened its summer sessions as part of austerity initiatives. It also enforced energy-conservation efforts to reduce power bills and restricted the hiring of new employees.

“We remain committed to ensuring that our financial resources continue to support our academic programs and student services and to improve institutional effectiveness. We will continue to use our comprehensive program review processes to guide and inform our planning and budgeting decisions,” said the interim president.

requested.

The House leadership also invited Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos to the closed-door

2 arrested for alleged marriage fraud

Federal agents arrested Tuesday two persons, including a woman convicted of marriage fraud last year in the Superior Court, for allegedly submitting fraudulent immigration document and making false statements.

Delora Taman Bhuiyan and Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan were brought to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday afternoon for an initial court appearance.

The two were arrested after an indictment was filed in court on Monday. The indictment charged Delora Bhuiyan with two counts of immigration document fraud and one count of false statement, and Mohammed Bhuiyan with one count of immigration document fraud.

Judge A. Wallace Tashima allowed the temporary release of Delora Bhuiyan with come conditions. These included evaluation for any substance abuse problems.

Delora Bhuiyan is also known as Delora Taman Hossuin, Delora Gang, Delora Meliong Itaman, and Delora Meliong Taman.

meeting but the latter won’t be able to join due to previous commitments. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

Tashima released Mohammed Bhuiyan on a \$2,500 bail, secured with his taxicab and other conditions.

The jury trial for Mohammed Bhuiyan will be on Sept. 6, 2011. No trial schedule was set for Delora Bhuiyan as the court may appoint a new counsel to represent her.

According to the indictment, on March 30, 2009, Delora Bhuiyan, in response to questioning about her place of residence by a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer, stated that she lives in Susupe, Saipan. Delora Bhuiyan also claimed having a husband, Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan.

Delora Bhuiyan in fact lived in China Town, Saipan, with someone other than her husband. In fact, Delora Bhuiyan was married to both Mohammed Bhuiyan and Zheng Gang.

Attorney Michael Dotts represented Delora Bhuiyan, while Colin Thompson served as counsel for Mohammed Bhuiyan at yesterday’s hearing. Assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum appeared for the U.S. government. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

DPS

From Page 1

day’s operation.

“Again, in an effort to preserve the integrity of the investigations, these locations cannot be disclosed at this time,” he said.

As for the possibility of raising the \$50,000 cash reward for information on the girls’ whereabouts, Demapan said the administration and DPS cannot stop any company or individual from making more monetary offers.

He said the administration and DPS, however, share the same sentiments of the FBI that enhancing the cash reward

will be counter-productive as it makes people hold on to information until the price goes up and up.

“We strongly continue to encourage anyone with information that may lead to locating the whereabouts of the missing children to contact the appropriate authorities right away,” he said.

Demapan said the department has no comment when asked if DPS has made some changes to its search and investigation strategy, considering that the girls’ disappearance is now entering its sixth week.

Ten-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina were reportedly last seen near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo on May 25, a little after 6am.

SSHS

From Page 1

out as the new Liberation Day Queen.

“I’m very happy. I didn’t think I could make it this far, to this position. I especially want to thank my mom, Frances Muña. She did so much and she worked so hard,” she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Castro disclosed that she and her mother sold tickets mostly to family members and friends. “I also sold my tickets at the information booth at the carnival grounds almost every night.”

Castro, whose pageant experience includes joining Little Miss CNMI where she won Best in Sportswear, said she looks forward to gaining more during her reign.

“I would love to help out in the community. I’m excited about the possibility of traveling to Japan with the mayor, just like when I did as part of the My WAVE program,” she said.

Castro hopes to promote the CNMI during the likely visit as well as inspire the young members of the community.

When asked how she would celebrate her victory, Castro replied, “I really don’t know. Right now, I’m just so happy.”

Castro’s mom became teary eyed when her daughter was announced the winner. “All our hard work paid off. I’m just feeling very proud of my daughter.”

Nizelynn T. Masayos, who sold about \$3,100 worth of tickets, is this year’s Royal Princess. Mariah I. Ada,

meanwhile, is the first runner up after selling tickets worth \$2,500. All candidates were given plaques.

Masayos, 17, said being the Royal Princess feels “very exciting and great.” “I hope to inspire the community regardless what place I’m in. I want to encourage others, especially those who are my age.”

For her part, 18-year-old Ada said, “It doesn’t really matter if I didn’t win. I still feel like a winner.”

Liberation Queen Committee chair Vinycia Seman said the three candidates sold a total of \$11,850 worth of tickets. Each candidate will get a 10 to 15 percent share in their ticket sales.

“It turned out to be a successful event. These girls are not only beautiful but also intelligent. I’m very proud to have them in the competition,” she added.

2011 Liberation Day chair Jonas Barcinas extended his appreciation to all the families, particularly the parents, of the three candidates.

“They sacrificed their time, they showed their commitment and did a lot of hard work,” he said.

Barcinas encouraged the candidates to sell the remaining tickets until coronation night on Saturday. Many exciting prizes, cash and in-kind, will be given away for the raffle, he said.

“I’m inviting the community to come out and celebrate with us this Liberation Day. Come and enjoy the festival grounds with your family and friends,” added Barcinas.

FUND ADOPTS ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT

New actuarial contribution rate of 60.8 pct. approved

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund approved a new contribution rate of 60.8686 percent for fiscal year 2012—a 38-percent increase from the current 37.39 percent.

The new employee contribution level, which was approved during the board of trustees' regular meeting on Rota Friday, will take effect in October this year.

The board, in its memorandum to all departments yesterday, said the decision was based on a study conducted by its actuarial consultant, Buck

Consultants. The Fund advised government agencies to adjust their budget submissions for the new fiscal year to reflect the new rate.

Based on the result of the actuarial valuation presented by Buck Consultants principal Dylan Porter last month, the 60.8686 percent reflects \$48.914 million in yearly government contribution to the Fund.

The calculated figure is composed of the following components: \$2.8 million contribution for the Class I and II members; \$44.3 million for amortization of unfunded accrued liability; \$883,589 for the interest on accrued but unpaid government

contributions; and \$883,967 in allowance for administration expenses.

Unrealized govt contribution

The employer's contribution to the Fund is determined actuarially every year. From fiscal year 2009 through 2011, the government was mandated to pay 37.3909 percent in employer's share to the Fund.

For many years, these expected contributions were not realized, resulting in the current dismal state of the retirees' pension program.

As of May 31, 2011, the Fund's assets were valued at \$320.4 million while its accrued unfunded liability was estimated

at \$619.7 million as of February 2011.

This means if the pension program is suddenly terminated, the Fund will not have enough money to pay all its obligations to members.

The Superior Court had determined in June 2009 that the central government owes the Fund over \$231 million in unpaid contributions. That amount continues to increase.

Hard-pressed

The Fital administration said yesterday that the new actuarial rate may not also be realized due to dwindling financial resources and collections

"Obviously, the central government does not have the abil-

ity to make employer contribution payments at the rate of 60.8 percent, but the administration has taken major strides in good faith to address the situation," said press secretary Angel Demapan, the most notable of which is the \$10 million line-item appropriation in the governor's proposed fiscal year 2012 budget.

Demapan said that through the system of a line-item appropriation, the Fund would stand to receive payments greater than if it were to be calculated by way of percentage of payroll, given the decrease in payroll dollars in the midst of ongoing austerity.

This is why the administration is urging the Legislature

to pass H.B. 17-99, which proposes this method of payment for the employer contribution so it could move away from the actuarially determined rate as currently required by law. The bill proposes to appropriate a specific line-item amount.

"This proposed action is consistent with negotiations in the ongoing lawsuit by the [Fund] to collect employer contribution funds owed them. We strongly urge the Legislature to quickly act on H.B.17-99 to support this change in employer contribution payment method," said Demapan.

Besides a higher contribution rate to the Fund, Buck Consultants also disclosed that implementing across-the-board cuts in benefits to members would help the Fund prolong its existence. So far, the board has only approved the new actuarial contribution rate.

A step closer to \$15M housing project

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By a vote of 18-0, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed yesterday morning a local bill amending the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 to, among other things, allow a setback requirement of only 10 feet instead of 30 feet from the property line at all sides.

House Local Bill 17-50, which now heads to the governor, is just one of many pieces of legislation seeking to amend the zoning law.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), author of HLB 17-50, said once his local bill becomes law, it will pave the way for a \$15-million housing project in Chalan Galaide to proceed.

"I believe that the governor will sign this into law because it will bring in needed revenue to the Commonwealth," Cabrera said.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-

Saipan) attempted to put a rider on Cabrera's bill but some members, and later on even delegation chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), requested Torres to just introduce a separate bill for his proposed amendments.

Torres withdrew his proposal. He said his proposed changes were requested by professional surveyors who believe that some of the zoning law's provisions are "unnecessary" and "burdensome."

The speaker said the 25-unit housing investment is similar to the Tottotville Housing. He said without amending the zoning law, the investor for the \$15-million housing project will pull out their plan.

The foreign investor leased a 4.5-hectare private property in Chalan Galaide for the project, the speaker said.

The delegation deferred action on another local bill, Rep. Ralph Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) HLB 17-49, which also seeks to amend the zoning law.

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As part of our ongoing commitment to our customers and system-wide upgrade, IT&E engineers will conduct a two-phase project that will relocate our servers to a new state of the art facility in our Susupe headquarters. Phase One of the move will take place on Thursday, **June 30** from **1am - 5am**. Phase Two of the move will take place on Friday, **July 1** from **1am - 5am**. During these times, IT&E customers will not be able to access our web services or download any e-mails that are hosted on our servers. No emails will be lost during either phase of the project as all data will be queued in IT&E's backup SMTP gateways. Customers using an e-mail client (Yahoo!, Gmail, MSN, Outlook, Thunderbird, etc.) should still be able to send and receive messages as usual. Internet browsing will not be affected. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience experienced during this activity. IT&E appreciates your patience and understanding while we continue to serve the Marianas.

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Framingham graduates decry 'inconsistency' in SHEFA policy

» **Appeal again for unpaid financial awards**
» **Administrator reiterates funding shortage**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eight of the 17 Framingham State University graduates under Cohort 8 trooped to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance office yesterday and waited for more than an hour to appeal anew their unpaid financial awards for the last semester.

Disappointed with SHEFA

administrator Henry Hofschneider's statement Tuesday about the slim chance of their request being granted, the group scored SHEFA's inconsistent policies and program practices.

Bobby Cruz, who completed a master's degree and is now an employee of the Public School System, deplored the "double standard" being practiced by the current SHEFA administration. He said the past administration

gave him financial awards in the last two semesters.

"It seems that there is a double-standard regarding the way Framingham graduates are processed and how other graduate students are processed. We submitted our applications, we were provided two financial awards already, which obviously means we are eligible. We followed the same procedures and normally we receive our financial awards after each semester. So what seems to be the issue now with our final financial awards?" a

disappointed Cruz told reporters yesterday.

Hofschneider denied singling out Framingham students. "In fact, we're also holding off checks of other graduate students from other universities... because we have no funding to pay for it," he said.

Hofschneider had recommended denying reimbursement for fall 2010 Framingham graduates because of lack of funding. The matter has been referred to the board's policy and procedures committee and will be acted on next week.

Hofschneider admitted yesterday to inconsistencies in the policies and practices of SHEFA but he reiterated that prior awards were granted under a different administration. Hofschneider joined SHEFA last year and only recently started checking and evaluating the program's operations and policies.

Hofschneider pointed out that SHEFA prioritizes undergraduate scholars, while graduate level scholars are just a second priority. At the same time, SHEFA can only give out awards upon the availability of funds, he said.

He said these Framingham students may be eligible but funding is not available and the only way to give them awards is to include funding in the fiscal year 2012 budget.

SHEFA has no lapsed funds in the last fiscal year that can be used to cover these students' awards, he added.

The affected scholars earlier claimed that the previous SHEFA board had agreed to reimburse them for their fall 2010 tuition expenses. Hofschneider had said that they found no written record of such an agreement.

Cruz clarified yesterday that a "written agreement" is unnecessary because the process has been the "practice" of SHEFA since the beginning.

"It's the administrative process that has been in place. If the same protocol was followed from Cohort 1 through Cohort 7, then what seems to be the problem this time? Why the

sudden change?" asked Cruz.

Another scholar, Darrah Tagabuel, said the current SHEFA management "ignored" the calls of affected students. "I only received a response when I told them I've been waiting for an answer in the last four weeks," she said.

"My biggest concern is that other graduate students are receiving financial checks and I personally know one of them. My question is what makes me less priority than person X and who does receive a check?" she said.

Hofschneider has scheduled a meeting with affected scholars today at 2pm. However, he said no decision will be made because the matter is now up to the board.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Framingham State University masters graduate Bobby Cruz, right, expresses his disappointment with SHEFA's policy while waiting for SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider yesterday at his office. The group is scheduled to meet with the administrator again today.

Registration for Teachers Institute continues

The NMI Council for the Humanities is still accepting registration forms for the 2011 Teachers Institute. Teachers from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are all invited to participate.

The Institute is a six-session course that provides a comprehensive understanding of NMI history and meets the Public

School System history certification requirement.

Topics include Geography and Pre-Contact Culture & History, the Spanish, German, and Japanese colonial periods, World War II and the Naval/Trust Territory era, Status Negotiations and the CNMI Constitution, and Current Issues and Cultural Preservation.

These topics will be covered by a number of notable scholars and authors, including Scott Russell, Carlos Madrid, Dirk Spennemann, Don Farrell, Jessica Jordan, Jose Dela Cruz, Brenda Tenorio, and Lino Olopai.

The 2011 Institute will take place during the month of August. A \$100 registration fee in-

cludes all course materials and light refreshments.

Registration forms are available at the council office on Middle Road and online at the council website: www.nmihumanities.org. For more information, interested participants may also contact Merced Ada at 235-4785 or mada@pticom.com. (PR)

Damaged signpost outrages Dandan watchers



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dandan Neighborhood Watch block captain Frank Camacho points to the damaged signpost.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dandan Neighborhood Watch block captain Frank Camacho expressed "disappointment and outrage" upon discovering that one of their small signposts had been damaged.

The signpost, which was erected in September 2010, now sports a big hole, like "somebody deliberately did that," said Camacho.

Camacho said they have three small signposts at each of the entry points to Dandan that cost them about \$700.

He said there are two bigger signages that are placed conspicuously in the village to encourage better participation in the Village Neighborhood Watch Task Force.

Camacho disclosed that they discovered the damage on the signpost about two to three weeks ago.

"The team that's been cleaning around our village is disappointed that somebody did something like that. I'm actually

more outraged than disappointed," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho said that someone used a heavy object, most likely made of metal, to create the big hole on the signpost.

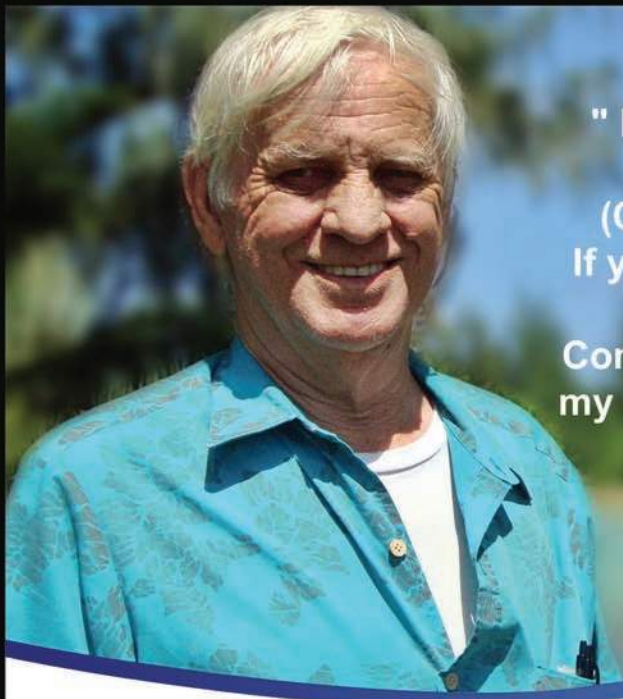
"Who would do such a thing and what can they get from doing it?" he asked.

Camacho believes that people who would do that are not educated enough and do not realize that they are creating a problem instead of helping the task force.

He said he did not report the incident but hopes that they would catch the perpetrator in the act.

"The task force is created for residents to be watchful of wrong things being done in the village but we can't monitor it all the time. If we catch the one who did this, we'll have him prosecuted because that's damaging public property," said Camacho.




He urged those who have information on who did the damage on the signpost to come out and report the person/s involved.



"I smoked cigarettes for most of my life. I have come down with COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease). If you smoke and want to quit, sign up for the Smoking Cessation Program at the Community Guidance Center. They saved my life and they can do the same for you!"

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Man gets 6 years in prison for having sex with minor

A 23-year-old man who has sex with his underage girlfriend at his house in As Teo was sentenced to six years in prison.

Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona, in a written order issued Monday, sentenced Frank Kaneshi to 10 years in prison, all suspended except for six years and with credit for time served, for sex abuse of a minor in the second degree.

After serving his sentence, Kaneshi will be placed on probation for 10 years. He was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine, \$100 court assessment fee, plus an annual probation service fee in an amount to be determined by

the Office of Adult Probation.

Kaneshi was ordered to register as a sex offender and to pay for any medical or psychological treatment of the victim.

He was also required to write a letter of apology to the victim, perform 100 hours of community service, and submit to counseling evaluation at the Community Guidance Center.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Kaneshi with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. He pleaded guilty to one count as part of a plea deal. The remaining charge was dropped. He was represented in the case by assistant public defender

Douglas W. Hartig.

The case arose after the parents of the girl filed a complaint with the police in April. The girl told two responding police officers that she and Kaneshi had sex four times.

In their last encounter on March 29, 2011, the girl said that Kaneshi picked her up from school and they then proceeded to his house and had sex. When Kaneshi later dropped off the girl at school, her ride had already left so she walked home. At home, the girl's father questioned her about her whereabouts and learned what had happened. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Judge urges lawmakers to revisit 'ice' law that requires mandatory sentence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman urged the Legislature yesterday to look into a law that provides a mandatory 25-year prison sentence on anyone convicted of trafficking "ice" even it only involves 3 grams and the defendant has no prior conviction.

This came as Wiseman postponed the sentencing of Jing Xin Xiao, who was convicted of trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of controlled substance involving 3 grams of "ice."

In a written order yesterday, the judge said he finds it necessary to make a statement suggesting amendments to mandatory sentencing laws as this type of statutes "curb the discretion of prosecutors and judges over certain offenses or types of offenders."

He said divesting prosecutors and judges of control over criminal sentences is a concern because discretion is the touchstone of a judicial sentence.

"A sentence should reflect a deliberate sentencing plan and be tailored to the particular offense and offender, such as the criminal history of the defendant, was he serving on probation at time of offense, was there harm to any victim, was the offense committed at a school or other public institution, were weapons used during the crime, etc. etc.," he said.

In a mandated sentence such as in the case of Xiao, these and other factors have no bearing on the sentence.

Wiseman noted that Xiao has no record of criminal conviction and the amount of drugs he was convicted of was 3 grams. Under the mandatory sentencing law, a judge cannot factor these things into the sentence, he said.

Xiao, Wiseman said, will be penalized and treated similar to a suspect who may be convicted of trafficking 5 to 100 kilos of

"ice" and who have also have several prior convictions, and who may have sold "ice" to schoolchildren.

Wiseman said Xiao, convicted of selling 3 grams of "ice" with none of these aggravating factors, will still receive a mandatory sentence of 25 years.

"As a result, there is a gross disproportionately which the court urges the Legislature to look into," he said.

The judge noted that Public Law 11-24 amended the previous law with respect to importing methamphetamine or "ice" into the Commonwealth providing that if its more than 5 grams the mandatory sentence of 25 years with no parole or suspension applies, while the trafficking of "ice" does not have any weight requirement.

"This is troubling because for the most part, there would not be any trafficking, or little of it, if there was no import of it," Wiseman said.

He said the CNMI Supreme Court has ruled that there are actually three choices of sentencing a court can have when sentencing under the applicable mandatory code provision.

In Xiao's case, Wiseman said he will review the representations by assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing and chief public defender Adam Hardwicke and continue the sentencing for Aug. 10, 2011 at 9am.

The Department of Public Safety claimed last year that 236.5 grams of "ice" with a street value of \$118,250 were recovered during a raid on April 7, 2010, at the house of Xiao on Saipan, making it the largest drug bust that DPS conducted without the help of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

But tests conducted by Guam Police Department criminalist Analyn Gatus showed that only 3.5 grams tested positive for "ice"; a big chunk of evidence submitted for testing was actually Chinese sugar.

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CLASS REUNION

Members of the Marianas High School Class of 1991 have their picture taken during their 20th reunion banquet at the Pacific Islands Club on June 24, 2011.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Marianas High School Class of 1991 holds a Family Fun Day as part of their reunion at Minatchom Atdao on June 26, 2011. A big birthday shoutout also goes out to Roxxon Kani, seated left side, who is celebrating his birthday today, June 30. Greetings coming out from your Class of '91.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



GOOD JOB!

Congratulations to Juan Ilisari Quitugua Jr., who graduated from Tanapag Elementary School on June 17, 2011. Quitugua was given the following awards: Vice Principal Award, Top Five Award, Best in Math, Best in Science, Best in P.E. and Academic Achievement Award for A Honor. He is the son of proud parents Juan and Dora Mae Quitugua. "We love you and keep up the good work." Greetings come from the entire Hamilton and Quitugua families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Congratulations to Matthew Chandler Hamilton, who graduated from Tanapag Elementary School on June 17, 2011. He was awarded the Top Five Award and Academic Achievement Award for B Honor Roll. "We love you and keep up the good work." Greetings come from your sisters and brothers.

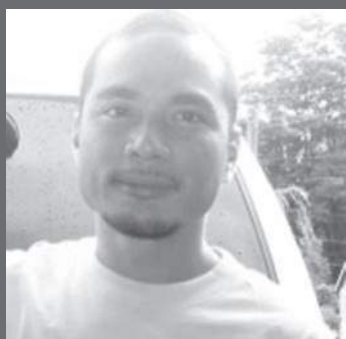
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BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 21st birthday to Tanishia Masga! Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Peter Camacho! Wishing you another year of love and happiness! With all our love, Eva, the kids, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Rita T. Cabrera and Alana Rita C. Camacho! May God bless you and may you both have many more birthdays to come. Love, Katrina Froilan, Kiana, Goro Boy, Vicky, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 30, 1999

CNMI to seek changes in takeover proposal

Calling Sen. Frank Murkowski's (R-Alaska) federal takeover proposal "more flexible," Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said he would ask for changes in the pending legislation during an oversight hearing next month by the U.S. Senate Energy and Resources Committee. He also expressed hope the nation's lawmakers would consider the state of the island's economy when they deliberate on the bipartisan measure introduced in May that would apply federal immigration laws in the Northern Marianas. Murkowski, chairman of the Senate committee dealing with island issues, has set the hearing on July 27 in Washington D.C. to review the measure, which is one of seven federal takeover bills now pending in Congress.

FAA eyes Saipan as training hub

The Federal Aviation Administration is reviewing a proposal to establish Saipan as the Aircraft Rescue Training Hub in the Western Pacific region, according to Carlos H. Salas, executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. "If this materializes, we hope to get federal funding to help us run the program," said Salas, adding that the Regional Aircraft Rescue and Training Program will benefit the islands of Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau and even Hawaii. The proposal for Saipan to become the training ground came from Martinez Jacob of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Aircraft Rescue Office in Hawaii.

June 30, 2000

PIBBA delegates note advancement in language standards

Panelists representing the five political entities of the Pacific Islands Bilingual Bicultural Association conference yesterday disclosed major advancements in the Indigenous Language Development Standards in their respective islands as a result of the PIBBA conference held in Kosrae last year. During an open discussion, the association grouped together island leaders who shared to other participants improvements on the development standards in their respective entities. This tradition has been set to measure the impact of the yearly meet which tackles concerns besetting bilingual and bicultural issues throughout the Pacific. PIBBA International Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Marilyn Salas from Guam has noted on major advancements brought about by the conference to bilingual programs all over the region.

Youth leader says literacy should start at home

Pressing for the preservation of culture and heritage of the Pacific islanders, Tinian High School outstanding student Carl King-Nabors underscored the need to initiate learning of the first language at home. An active student leader, Mr. Nabors said parents should start prepping up their children the basics of their native language as early as possible. Speaking before participants to the 19th annual Pacific Islands Bilingual Bicultural Association, Mr. Nabors stressed that the preservation of one's own culture and heritage can be achieved only through a coherent community effort.

June 30, 2003

CUC plans \$15K as starting salary

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. plans to raise its starting pay from \$13,000 annually to \$15,000 beginning October this year. CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta said in her recent communication to Arizona-based consulting firm, Fox Lawson & Associates, that beginning fiscal year 2004, CUC is considering pegging the starting salary at that level. If premiums are to be embedded, she said, then the base salary for those in hazardous positions "would certainly start out higher." Babauta also sought the advice of the firm as to whether the CUC would continue with its premium pay or adopt a total compensation scheme.

NMIRF appeals for 2 more trustees

The NMI Retirement Fund has urged Gov. Juan N. Babauta to nominate two new Board of Trustees, to replace two members whose terms expired on June 6. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said that, with the terms of Marian Tudela and Thomas Saures having expired, the board seats that are required by law to be filled by a Carolinian and women representatives are now vacant. Reyes said that the Babauta administration has already been informed about this and asked it to nominate their replacement. When asked if they have heard anything from the governor yet, Reyes said no.

2 indicted for alleged human smuggling

An indictment was filed Monday in federal court against two persons who allegedly recruited six persons in China to come to the CNMI with promises of finding them jobs here while pretending to be tourists.

The indictment charged Honglian Cheng and Li Hua with foreign labor contracting fraud conspiracy, six counts of foreign labor contracting fraud, one count of alien smuggling conspiracy, six counts of alien smuggling, and three counts of importation of

alien for prostitution.

Hua was allegedly responsible for recruiting the six persons in China, while Cheng was allegedly the one who brought them to Saipan.

The six—Zhongjun Yu, Cui-lan Ma, Chungping Li, Lifei Bian, Shoujun Yin, and Zhipeng Ren—have already pleaded guilty in federal court to improper entry.

The six arrived in the CNMI on May 30, 2011, from China with the intention of finding work. Cheng and Hua allegedly

made false promises to the six such as a work visa after arrival, guaranteed employment, and salaries of over \$800 per month.

Prior to coming to the CNMI on May 30, Hua and Lifei Bian, Chungping Li, and Shoujun Yin allegedly worked in Bahrain as prostitutes.

From May 12 to 27, 2011, Cheng allegedly made arrangements with a resident in the CNMI to find karaoke bars where Lifei Bian, Chungping Li, and Shoujun Yin could work as prostitutes. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

High Court denies adoption petition

The Supreme Court vacated Thursday, June 23, a trial court order that denied the adoption petition filed by Dominga F. Villar to adopt a child.

The High Court ruled that the trial court should have dismissed the case.

Under Commonwealth law, a minor child must be physically present and living in the Commonwealth for at least one year before filing a petition for adoption.

The trial court ruled that the time the minor child spent in the

CNMI on a tourist visa could not count toward this one year requirement because, as a tourist, the child did not intend to stay in the Commonwealth.

The Supreme Court disagreed, because the adoption residency statute does not require that the minor child intend to remain in the Commonwealth. Accordingly, the court held that time spent in the CNMI on a tourist visa can count toward the one year adoption residency requirement.

However, the Supreme Court

ultimately determined that the minor child had not been in the Commonwealth for one full year before filing the adoption petition.

The court held that given this fact, the trial court should have dismissed the adoption petition for failure to satisfy the residency requirement.

In reaching this decision the court stressed that immigration matters in the Commonwealth are now governed by federal law and the decision does not speak to immigration consequences arising from the potential adoption. *(PR)*

Tinian student graduates with highest honor in WA

A student from Tinian emerged as one of the top graduates of the Skyview High School in Vancouver, Washington, during the institution's commencement rites on June 21.

Eleina Hofschneider completed high school with flying colors after being named one of 15 graduates who achieved a 4.0 grade point average.

Saipan Tribune learned that Hofschneider graduated with 437 seniors from Skyview High School.

Vancouver School District recognizes the top 1 percent of the graduates in lieu of valedic-

torian honors. Hofschneider belongs to this elite group.

Lei, as her family calls her, is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. She is the daughter of John Reyes Santos and Corinne Hofschneider Santos and the granddaughter of the late Gonzalo and Olympia Santos and Richard V. and Andresina U. Hofschneider.

She started her first three years of elementary school at St. Joseph Catholic School on Tinian and then finished the remaining years at Tinian Elementary School. Hofsch-

neider then moved to Tinian Jr. High School and spent a year of high school there and part of it at Grace Christian Academy Saipan.

She then moved to the mainland for the remaining of her high school years. Hofschneider, an avid basketball player, was also a member of her school's junior varsity team.

In addition to her high school success, she is also a recipient of the Arthur Schultz Scholarship. She will attend the University of Portland this fall and will be majoring in pre-medicine Biology. *(Moneth Deposa)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eleina Hofschneider poses with her proud family after her graduation at Skyview High School in Vancouver, Washington. The former Tinian student was recognized as among the top graduates of the school.

Reunification survey results to be announced

The NMC Marianas Reunification Survey Group, composed of students from a Northern Marianas College Current Issues class, is inviting the public to attend the announce-

ment of results of the group's recently conducted public opinion survey that asked the question "Should the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam

reunify in pursuit of a new political status?" The announcement will take place on Friday, July 1, in Building A, Room 9 at the NMC As Terlaje Campus at 5pm. *(NMC)*



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2012 State Plan is now available for review and public comment from June 29, 2011 to July 1, 2011. Interested members of the general public may review the 2012 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located in Navy Hill, Saipan, Building No. N-25. Our office hours are from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Monday – Friday). All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no later than July 5, 2011.

[Signature]
Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez

Secretary of Public Health

[Signature]
Carmen C. Cabrera

WIC Program Administrator



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All interested individuals may apply in person at Flame Tree Terrace Office Building, Suite 200, Lower Capitol Hill on or before July 6, 2011.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Ruling on violent video games: Score one for First Amendment

The Supreme Court took almost eight months to render a decision in a case challenging California's law banning the sale of violent video games to minors. The wait was worth it, and not just for the video-game industry. In striking down the law, the court bolstered anew the protections of the First Amendment.

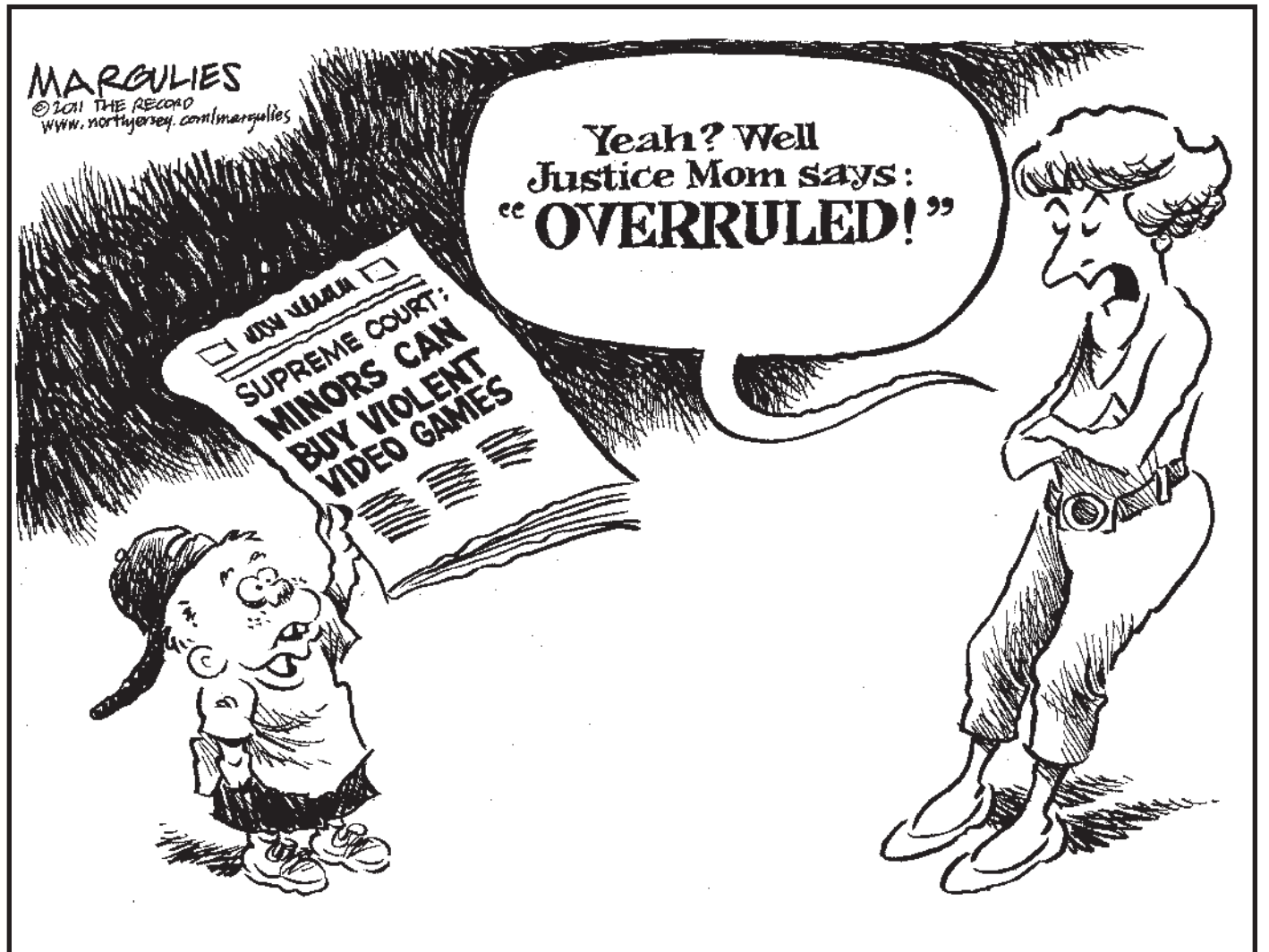
Although seven justices voted to invalidate the law, it was five led by Antonin Scalia who grounded the decision in a compelling opinion that examined new technology through the prism of the First Amendment. (Scalia was joined in his opinion by conservative Anthony M. Kennedy and liberals Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan—a reminder that free-speech cases often scramble the usual liberal-conservative alliances.)

Scalia dispatched all of the major arguments for the law. A technical but vital issue was whether the court must look at the law with "strict scrutiny," the practice in other free-speech cases. Scalia answered yes, meaning that the law had to serve a compelling state interest and be narrowly tailored to meet that purpose. Scalia found no such interest in the protection of children from imaginary violence. He ridiculed studies relied on by the state to show a link between playing video games and aggression in children. Referring to one expert, Scalia said that "he admits that the same effects have been found when children watch cartoons starring Bugs Bunny or the Road Runner."

The other major accomplishment of Scalia's opinion was to fend off a theory that would have created a new loophole in the protections afforded to free speech. Sexually explicit materials sold or given to minor are considered legally obscene—and outside the protection of the First Amendment—even if the materials wouldn't be obscene for adults. The state wanted the court to treat violent materials provided to minors as unprotected; Scalia, for the court, declined. The case law on obscenity is confused enough; there is no need for another category of unprotected speech. And if fictional violence is treated as illegal speech, the effects surely would soon creep beyond video games and beyond children.

This decision will be unpopular with many, as was the court's decision upholding the right of hateful protesters to picket near military funerals. What the rulings have in common is an unyielding commitment to free speech that has served the nation well. As for parents who want to protect their children from unsuitable entertainment, this decision does not prevent them from laying down the law.

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times



Imagine the thoughts in Blagojevich's veins

By JOHN KASS
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A blue vein ran along the back of Rod Blagojevich's left hand, snaking back from the base of his index finger as the former governor of Illinois took that beating in federal court Monday.

Sliding across the flat of the hand, that vein turned back toward the thumb, splitting, raised, then finally running to hide inside the cuff of that fine blue suit worn by Dead Meat.

He was still, hardly moving, only a few feet away as the beating rained down on him, all that prison time coming, and even with all of that, the back of his suit was perfectly flat. There was not even one wrinkle in it.

He was mute, perhaps numb, but that vein of his did all the talking.

His wife, Patti, wearing a white suit of a boucle knit, sobbing in her brother's arms, shaking her head "no" as she sat in the seat in front of me, the clerk reading the 17 guilty criminal verdicts, "With respect to count 12 in the indictment, we the jury find the defendant guilty. ..."

There was meter to the chant of his guilt, and it went on like that for some time, with the clerk tolling off the counts as if in liturgy, and Rod finally still, except for that vein pulsing away in the forgotten hand.

At least he'd finally stopped acting. Dead Meat didn't have to play a part anymore. There was nobody to charm, nobody to convince. All he had to do was sit there and take it.

And I wonder if Dead Meat had time then to consider the arc of his life as the perfect Chicago political cautionary tale:

The desperate kid who wanted to be liked, the boy who married the ward boss's daughter, the kid who ingratiated his way into the 5th Congressional District, and who, with the help of patronage armies of knuckle draggers, was finally elected governor as a self-professed reformer.

It all began to fall apart for him around Christmas of 2004, when Blagojevich and his father-in-law, Chicago Alderman Richard Mell, 33rd, had a very public falling out over an in-law's role in a Will County landfill.

It got ugly, then it got uglier, and when it became public, drawing the attention of the FBI, Blagojevich was becoming Dead Meat.

Mell accused Blagojevich of trading public-sector jobs for campaign donations and said publicly that he had been replaced in Dead Meat's inner circle by his son-in-law's friend, contractor Christopher Kelly.

Mell, a movie buff and fan of film noir, described himself as the loyal wife who'd been dumped for a trophy girlfriend in this quote to the Sun-Times in 2005:

"Now he's at the top, and he says, 'What a great man I am,' and

she says, 'Wait a second, I remember when you were crying that we needed more money, or you were crying because you thought you'd fail one of the tests.' He with his gigantic ego cannot stand that anymore. So he jettisons that wife. And he gets a new trophy wife. I am the old wife. The new wife is Chris Kelly."

And the new wife, Chris Kelly, killed himself years later, in September of 2009, after he'd been netted in the case called Operation Board Games. Kelly couldn't take the pressure.

Operation Board Games has exposed what I've been calling the bipartisan Illinois Combine, in which powerful Democrats work with powerful Republicans to gorge from the public trough and call it legal.

Kelly, a Democrat with many city of Chicago airport contracts, was indicted along with multimillionaire Republican powerbroker William Cellini in an attempted extortion scheme of an investment firm doing state business.

Cellini's trial is scheduled for October.

Blagojevich has always been nothing but an amateur, a pimple, compared with Cellini's Renaissance mastery of politics and policy. Perhaps that's why they call Cellini "the Pope," as if he's some kind of Springfield Borgia.

So at a news conference after the Blagojevich verdict on Monday, I asked U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald if Blagojevich might testify as a prosecution witness in Cellini's case, but Fitzgerald declined to comment.

Once Blagojevich and Mell fell out, once they began fighting and blaming each other and airing the family's dirty laundry, once Mell publicly accused his son-in-law of corruption, it was over for Blagojevich.

Without Mell guarding his flank, Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan had no qualms about cutting Dead Meat to size. And that was just the politics.

The FBI also picked up on the family feud, which spiraled into a federal investigation, which led to the guilty verdicts, which led to that blue vein pulsing in Blagojevich's left hand on Monday.

And after the guilty counts had been read, Rod turned to Patti and touched his lips as the jury filed out. "All rise," said the bailiff, and everyone stood, even Rod. The only ones who kept their seats in the courtroom were Patti and her brother. Moments later, Rod kissed her. As he put his chin over her right shoulder, you could see that his eyes were wet.

"Patti and I obviously are very disappointed in the outcome," Dead Meat told reporters in the courthouse lobby. "I, frankly, am stunned."

Perhaps he was the only one.

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may send him email at jskass@tribune.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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The East is red

Tomorrow, July 1st, marks the 90th anniversary of the Communist Party of China and will be celebrated nationally in Beijing. Festooned red gatherings have already occurred this June in Nanjing, Shanghai, and other historic cities but the celebrative red will fly majestically around the country this first day of July, first for its ideological implication, but more deeply, for culturally affirming and inflaming an otherwise sedate demeanor.

The *China Daily* earlier this month had Li Zhongjie, deputy director of the Party History Research Center of the CPC Central Committee, commenting on the second volume of the History of the CPC, which features major events of the CPC from 1949 to 1978, including the Great Leap Forward of 1958 and the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76. The former is used by Western textbooks to point to the party's failure to achieve economic parity with the developed world, which is more xenophobic than anything else since industrializing agro-tenant Zhongguo at the time hinged more on parting the Red Sea rather than holding a quiet but methodical Sunday picnic at the park. The latter was a time of turbulence when many suffered extraordinary hardship acknowledge in the publication's account of positive contributions as well as analyzing the causes of policy failures and the misjudgment of Party leaders.

The Wall Street Journal is not so charitable with the recent Henry Kissinger *On China* recollections detailing the diplomatic journey of US-China relations since 1971 when he and Nixon surprised the nation and the world with the re-establishment of diplomatic relations and the eventual recognition of the mainland as the legitimate representative to global bodies rather than the then Kuomintang-led government in Taiwan. "Too reverential and nostalgic" is the overall critique on this monumental memoir.

Paul Midler's 2010 *Poorly Made in China* lends more to China-bashing by those already inclined as it tromps through the recent era of commercial productivity that resulted in China's

ascendancy into the ranks of the top economies of the world while flooding Neiman-Marcus and the Avenue de Champs Elysees with China-made products. We recall as a child, "Made in Japan" meant cheaply made goods, primarily because the nation post-WWII factories produced cheap goods to gain market share and heal its manufacturing sector.

The fact that China has self-consciously gone after fraud and corruption in its business dealings seems not to matter much to the self-righteous pretensions and hypocritical practices of puritanical structures that produces phantom wealth at the expense of the masses. Unfortunately, the bubble that accompanies most real estate development in speculative financial centers has invaded China's housing development as well, and that bubble is what the current CPC, whose members are better suited for building dams than construing financial shenanigans and auditing loopholes, is trying to deflate.

Our interest is, however, not on the geopolitical implication of "red" as it is on its functional celebrative quality.

We led some 20 foreign students this semester from Nigeria, Ghana, France, and Kampuchea on social economy delving in the social process with the backdrop of the U.S and China economies. Movemental grassroots U.S. beyond the tea party is currently flaunting the phrase, "from Wall Street back to Main Street," words mouthed by President Obama in the last political campaign. China Premier Wen Jiabao recently told Great Britain that in forging China's future path, "confidence is more important than currency and gold." Which is to say that using the two countries as backdrop, the course was hardly London School of Economics' vintage.

It was the 200-some university students into the world of oral English that caught my fancy. Crises of confidence pervaded the classroom atmosphere as students who have been studying reading and writing for 10 years could not string a spoken sentence together, if their mein chow depended on it. This is mostly because of "face"

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



where students are afraid to be laughed at by peers if they make a mistake. It also stems from the Confucian practice of the "expert" teaching the novices classical things, and passing an exam later by returning the memorized right answers.

We went existential in our pedagogy so we got everyone to extemporaneously introduce themselves up front (I clicked digitized photos to get names and faces together), and had everyone sing English songs, particularly Chinese ones with English translations.

Previous oral English classes were notorious for absenteeism. We broke the pattern. When the winter days finally waned and the hallway class panes and windows finally opened to let the air flow, teachers and workers peeked into our classes wondering what was going on. The students seem to have found their ringing if not riotous voices!

The CNMI hosted Zhongguo ren awhile in its ill-fated discovery and dependence on a commercial loophole in the garment industry, and when the imported and exploited workers were no longer needed, some stayed. Now, their compatriots are targeted by the tourist industry while China's deregulated airline industry cast an eye on the islands. It is time to heed Kissinger's advice: be an authentic partner with China! Real partners, for indeed, the east is still red!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Article 12: What it says, not what others say it says that it didn't say**

A proponent of retaining Article 12 asked if I didn't see in the current provision protection of land for the indigenous children of these islands.

It was a shocking question that demonstrates the obvious lack of review (reading) of the provision by proponents. Now, let's look at the issue together if only to see what it says and not what proponents are saying it says that it doesn't say. The facts are as follows:

1. The current provision robs the landowner of half his land, a ludicrous form of ownership that doesn't grant the landowner final disposition of his land. In economics, when ownership becomes a problem, it quickly turns assets into "dead capital." In brief, your land takes a nosedive in terms of its value because of the current form of ownership—50 percent for you, the other half the government.

2. The definition of NMD accommodates non-indigenous folks from Micronesia who were qualified by date rather than by genealogy or real Chamorro and Carolinian blood. This is pure convenience

in political definition that effectively disqualifies real full-blooded indigenous people over non-NMDs. Whatever happened to our cultural or traditional values? Are we now morally bankrupt?

3. It imposes a 25 percent blood quantum to qualify to own land, blood quantum that will continuously be diluted as more of our young folks intermarry. It's a shortsighted, if not a racist provision that never took into consideration that since five centuries ago, our ancestors have been intermarrying with folks from around the region. Today, our people are more mobile and would intermarry with greater frequency than before.

4. It eventually denies our children their rich heritage. This is the net result of a shortsighted provision done in haste as to deny the benefit of the long thoughtful process. Who is authorized to deny my great-great-grandchildren their heritage?

Banking institutions have shot down real estate programs because of the difficulty they had to ensure with Article 12. As such, most won't be able to build the first family home even when given homestead lots. This constitutional provision has even adversely

affected federal housing programs as to deny regular folk opportunities to build and live in a strong, sanitary, and decent home. It has severed opportunities even for veterans. Is this why we wanted to keep or retain Article 12?

We can't even use the value or equity of our private land for collateral on emergency loans to meet family needs. I looked around for indigenous-owned banking institutions that would accept my application, only to find out that no such banks exist! I looked around for proponents of Article 12 so I could borrow at least \$40K, but most are broke, though how ironic that they still have the gall to borrow from my empty wallet. Seesuzzzz!

It brings home the question: If I can't benefit directly from the value of my land, then what good is it? As the bad times worsen, it means that more folks would need the benefit of their land to survive the apocalyptic pain of real family economic hardship current leadership can't provide with vision and commitment. Most are still watching via their black and white television sets while the

See ARTICLE 12 on Page 13

A view from the other side of the Article 12 fence

"It is necessary to construct certain safeguards at the outset of the Commonwealth government to ensure that the change in the political order is supported by the stability in the social order."

—Analysis of the CNMI Constitution, Dec. 6, 1976

At first glance, Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution—"a requirement that the acquisition of permanent and long term interest in real property be restricted to persons of Northern Marianas Descent"—seems to be racially motivated. Though not a constitutional expert or real estate investor, a layman at best trying to comprehend issues that affect our island community, I have to disagree. The provision is a focal point of determining who are the people of the Northern Marianas. A basis of identifying individuals whose allegiance and patriotic leanings was with the Trust Territory government, and before the Trust Territory times. Scrutinizing NMDs closely would reveal that they are actually people of different races. For the majority of people living in the Marianas during and before the Trust Territory government were actually from the different

islands of Micronesia, and other Pacific islands. According to the analysis of the CNMI Constitution, "...one major consideration for inclusion to be identified as a NMD is allegiance to the TT government." Understandably, foreigners, Americans, and other nationals will be excluded because their allegiance is somewhere else. Aspirations of the people of Mariana Islands during the TT times were to negotiate a closer relationship with the United States of America. In order to do this one has to establish a valid criterion of determining who are the people of the Northern Marianas for negotiations, suffrages, plebiscites, and other authentic self-determination purposes. Remember that the Trust Territory times was a decolonization era. Political self-determination of trusteeships must be the real aspirations of the people indigenous to the Pacific islands. Genuine wishes of the people that can withstand United Nations' and international scrutiny. Article 12 establishes clearly who were domiciled in the Marianas during the 1950's for inclusion as NMD, regardless of race.

Maintaining the CNMI's land alienation provision seems to be a

step back in today's advanced global economy. But the same argument could be made against environmental preservation and conservation efforts being pursued in different parts of the world. The argument is: preserve now for foreseeable future use. Three main issues disagreeable to the proponents of abolishing Article of the CNMI Constitution emerges: 1) Too few people could own land, thus the market base for economic activity is limited. 2) Adoption of non-NMDs, enabling them to be eligible to own land in the CNMI, bloodlines notwithstanding. 3) Spouses inherit land by default even though they are non-NMDs.






Although I am for maintaining Article 12's main provision, I am however agreeable to amending the blood quantum requirement. Authenticated proof of family lineage once established should be enough to meet the requirements of being a bonafide Northern Marianas Descent for purposes of landownership. Land probate decrees could be a tool to identify ancestry, and as well as a legitimate family genealogy. The Northern Marianas Descent registry

See A VIEW 12 on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲86 ▼74
Kosrae	Rain	▲86 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼77

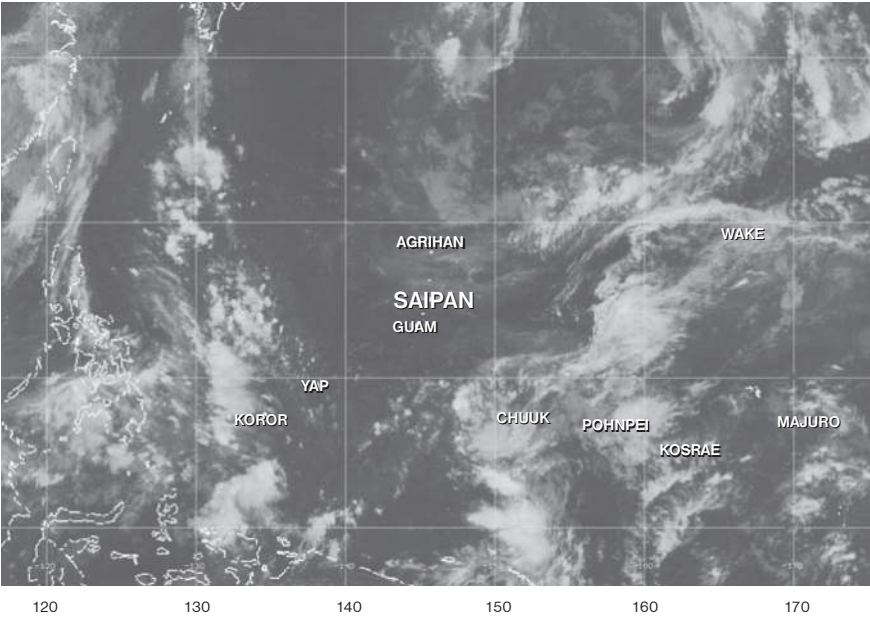
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲57 ▼48
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼51
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼78
New York	Sunny	▲83 ▼65
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼75
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼51
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲76 ▼70
Rome	Sunny	▲84 ▼66
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲78 ▼70
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼74
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲86 ▼71

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:47 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:39 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	-0.4 Feet
9:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 10N130E through a weak circulation centered southeast of Chuuk near 5N153E to end at EQ156E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found west of Koror within 150 miles of a line from 16N134E to EQ133E and also south of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 9N147E to EQ152E. Converging east winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei between 10N and 5N from 157E to 160E. An upper-level trough stretches southward from 25N159E through an low centered east of the Marianas at 14N155E, then turns southwestward to end near 9N149E. A surface trough runs southwestward from 25N165E to end at a circulation centered northeast of the Marianas at 22N153E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:29 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	5:25 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	7:35 PM
Sunday	7:21 AM	8:24 PM
Monday	8:19 AM	9:09 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
				C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6				via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
				OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

The six sections of Article 12

There is really no reason to become emotional over who is right or who is wrong on the fate of Article 12 of our Constitution. All you need to do is read the six sections of the Article and have a better understanding of what message each Section conveys. Keep in mind when you read this letter, Article 12 pertains only to privately owned land. Article 12 has nothing to do with public land or homestead land. If you are now a landowner, I strongly urge you to read Article 12 and understand how it will affect your future and the future generations of your family.

I have come to conclude that a great many of you have not taken the time to read the six sections of Article 12. The Citizens for Change of Article 12 (C-Cart-12), which makes up the core volunteer group, has spent countless hours over the past three years reading, understanding, and analyzing the effect and consequences of Sections of Article 12. Again, I fervently ask everyone to read the six sections of Article 12.

For the convenience of readers, I have taken the liberty in including all six Sections of Article 12 in this letter. I have also added my personal comments after each Section.

Section 1: Alienation of Land. *The acquisition of permanent and long term interest in real property within the Commonwealth shall be restricted to persons of Northern Marianas descent.*

■ **My comment:** Only persons who are Northern Marians descent may acquire real property (land) on a permanent basis, or have long term interest.

Section 2: Acquisition. *The term acquisition used in Section 1 includes acquisition by sale, lease, gift, inheritance, or other means. A transfer to a spouse by inheritance is not an acquisition under this section if the owner dies without issue or with issue not eligible to own land in the Northern Mariana Islands. A transfer to a mortgagee by means of foreclosure on a mortgage is not an acquisition under this section if the mortgagee is a full service bank, federal agency, or governmental entity of the Commonwealth and does not hold the permanent or long-term interest in real property for more than 10 years beyond the term of the mortgage.*

■ **My comment-2.1:** Section 2 above explains what it means by acquisition. If you already own land and transfer that land to your spouse as inheritance, and if you die without issue (no children involved), then the inheritance is valid. If, however, there is issue (with children) the inheritance is invalid or not permitted.

■ **My Comment-2.2:** This Section also explains that, in the event of foreclosure by a full service bank, federal agency, or an entity of the CNMI government, it may acquire the mortgaged property provided any of these agencies does not hold on to the mortgaged property for more than 10 years beyond the term of the mortgage. For instance if a borrower defaults on his or her mortgage loan 10 years after the loan was made and the term of the loan was say, 20 years, the lending institution or mortgagee may hold on to the mortgaged land for a full term of the loan plus 10 additional years.

■ **My Comment-2.3:** This will enable the lending institution or mortgagee ample time to dispose or sell the mortgaged property to eligible prospective landowner and recover its losses.

Section 3: Permanent and Long-Term Interests in Real Property. *The term permanent and long-term interest in real property used in Section 1 includes freehold interests and leasehold interests of more than fifty-five years including renewal rights, except an interest acquired above the first floor of a condominium building. Any interests acquired above the first floor of a condominium building is restricted to private lands. Any land transaction in violation of this provision shall be void. This amendment does not apply to existing leasehold agreements.*

■ **My Comment-3.1:** My understanding of this Section merely means that the term permanent and long-term interest includes “free-

hold interest” and “leasehold interests” and shall only be leased for a term of no more than 55 years including renewal rights. Simply put, all privately owned property can only be leased for a maximum of 55 years including renewal rights.

■ **My Comment-3.2:** Any lease involving condominium above the first/ground floor is restricted to private lands. Violation of Section 3 as provided shall be void. Any leasehold agreement consummated prior to the enactment of Section 3 is considered binding.

Section 4: Person of Northern Marianas Descent. *A person of Northern Marianas descent is a person who is a citizen or national of the United States and who is of at least one-quarter Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof or an adopted child of a person of Northern Marianas descent if adopted while under the age of eighteen years. For purposes of determining Northern Marianas descent, a person shall be considered to be a full-blooded Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian if that person was born or domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands by 1950 and was a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands before the termination of the Trusteeship with respect to the Commonwealth.*

■ **My Comment-4.1:** This section of Article 12 is the “deciding factor” in determining who is an NMD and who is not. If you are a citizen or national of the United States and have at least one-quarter (1/4) NMI Chamorro or Carolinian blood, or a combination thereof, then you are a Northern Marianas descent.

■ **My Comment-4.2:** A person is determined to be NMD if that person is “full blooded” Chamorro or Carolinian, was born or domiciled (established long term resident), physically present in the NMI by 1950 and was a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands before the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. While it is subject to verification, it is believed that the Trusteeship Agreement (between U.N., and U.S., as the Administering Authority) was terminated on Nov. 3, 1986. This is also the starting date when eligible U.S. citizens of the CNMI were able to obtain U.S. passports.

■ **My Comment-4.3:** If a child under 18 years of age who is not a Northern Marianas descent (non-NMD), were adopted by a person who is NMD, that child is 100 percent Northern Marianas descent and has every right to own land when he/she becomes an adult.

■ **My Comment-4.4:** A person with less than 25 percent NMD blood can no longer own real property in the CNMI. A fact of the matter is that many persons now living in the CNMI are at the verge of losing their right to own land because their bloodline have or will soon reach below the 25 percent threshold.

■ **My Comment-4.5:** Since 1951 I have seen intermarriages between Non-NMD with NMDs. In the past three decades, I have seen many university graduates returning to the CNMI from the U.S., with their spouses. The years that they remained and studied abroad, their lifestyle have somewhat changed. The children of these couples will no doubt be reduced to 50 percent if they are married to Non-NMD. It is unrealistic to assume that every NMD Chamorro or Carolinian or combination thereof will have to marry an NMD just to retain ownership to real property.

Section 5: Corporation. *A corporation shall be considered to be a person of Northern Marianas descent so long as it is incorporated in the Commonwealth, has its principal place of business in the Commonwealth, has directors one hundred percent of whom are persons of Northern Marianas descent and has a voting shares (i.e. common or preferred) one hundred percent of which are actually owned by persons of Northern Marianas descent as defined in Section 4. Minors, as defined by applicable laws of the Commonwealth, may not be eligible to become directors of a corporation. No trusts or voting by proxy by persons not of Northern Marianas descent may be permitted. Beneficial title shall not be severed from legal title.*

for this continuing debate without clear cut answers to our individual questions, most folks have been able to use their moral obligations to follow its basic tenets so founded on Judea-Christian values.

We’ve benefited tremendously from Christianity brought here by Spain. In fact, the Spaniards got rid of our viciously slave-founded landownership system that is limited to the two upper classes, Achaot and Matua. Land in the old Chamorro land tenure system is denied the Manachañs. Our forefathers accepted the change

On spousal inheritance of land by default, if conjugal relationship is not the most important foundation of society since ancient times, I know not where to place the integrity of family relationship. It is difficult to hide fake marital relationship in our island community. For a family relationship to work, it starts with two, two to tango.

Land foremost is the casting force that molds the cultural identity of a people that inhabit a certain area. Plainly, if this is untrue, Filipinos did not originate from the Philippines, Japanese nationals did not hail from the country of Japan, Chinese citizens are not from China, Anglo-Saxon Americans did not come from Europe, the Kayapo people are not indigenous to Brazil, and Afro-Americans have no ties with the land called Africa. Land always plays an important role in the development of societal structures in any given community. Historically, cultural identity and cultural heritage of a group of people is integrally connected to the geographic location that they occupy. People’s determination for self-governance derives its aspi-

By **DAVID M. SABLAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

David M. Sablan is treasurer of the group Citizens for Change of Article 12.



■ **My Comment-5.1:** For the purpose of this section, in dealing with privately owned land, a Corporation shall be considered to be a person NMD, if such Corporation is-

- incorporated under the laws of the CNMI;
- has its principal place of business in the CNMI;
- all its officers and directors are 100 percent NMD; and
- voting shares (common or preferred) are owned 100 percent by NMD as defined in Section 4.

■ **My Comment-5.2:** Minors are not eligible to become directors of a corporation. No one who is not NMD may be permitted as trustee or voting by proxy.

Section 6: Enforcement. *Any transaction made in violation of Section 1 shall be void ab initio. Whenever a corporation ceases to be qualified under Section 5, a permanent or long-term interest in land in the Commonwealth acquired by the Corporation after the effective date of this amendment shall be immediately forfeited without right of redemption to the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The registrar of corporation shall issue regulations to ensure compliance and the legislature may enact enforcement laws and procedures.*

■ **My Comment-6.1:** Any private land transaction in violation of Section 1 of Article 12 is automatically void as if it were never transacted. The Latin words “ab initio” means “from the beginning.” Whenever a corporation is not in full compliance with the requirement under Section 5, after the effective date of this amendment, the corporation shall immediately forfeit its right of redemption to the CNMI government.

■ **My Comments-6.2:** Section 6 requires the Legislature to enact enforcement laws and procedures to handle and to protect government’s right of redemption. The registrar of corporations shall also issue regulations to ensure compliance to Section 6.

Let us assume that Article 12 is abolished or repealed: You as the owner of your private land will still own that land and you can do anything you want to do with your land. If you want to pass it on to your children you can still do it. If you want to lease it to someone, you can also do it. If you want to give it away to someone in your family, you can do that too. In other words, you have the ultimate say-so on your private land because it is your and no one can tell you what to do. Your next-door neighbor, a private landowner, might want to sell part of the land he owns. That is okay too since the ultimate decision is his to make.

The repeal of Article 12 gives each and every landowner his/her unilateral freedom and right to decide what to do with his/her land. You are free to decide what to do with your land.

Unfortunately if Article 12 is not repealed, a large number of privately owned real property in the CNMI will in due course be lost. The land you are reserving to give to your children and your children’s children will someday be lost if the bloodline is reduced to less than 25 percent NMD.

In closing, I would caution our elected leaders and officials of the CNMI government. Please do not mislead your constituents on Article 12. You have an obligation to know about Article 12. One of the Cabinet members of the Administration is urging the public to keep Article 12. Obviously he is ill-informed.

given that is gift-wrapped in fairness and justice. We all come from a predominantly Christian community. I’m sure we too would feel forever grateful with spirits lifted by opening our mind, heart and soul to accommodating all citizens who have as much right to live among us as our very own. Si Yuus Maase’ yan Ghilisow!

John S. DelRosario, Jr.

As Gonno, Saipan

rations from the land they call home. If false, establishing any form of community order in any place will not be possible.

The Covenant is a sophisticated demand from a 15,000 people far out in the Pacific area. Complicated land transactions have been conducted by NMDs since the establishment of the Commonwealth, and even before that. It would be a big mistake to be deceived by appearances of NMD’s unsophisticated demeanor toward progress in land transactions.

Successfully, NMDs negotiated a political union with the United States, which was overwhelmingly supported by the U.S. Congress. Surely, whatever the people/NMDs decide, to abolish or not the land alienation provision, it is for the good of all people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bryan Manabat

Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

ARTICLE 12

From Page 10

rest of the world has moved on with digital sets.

Land has been, still is and will continue to be an emotional issue. Its history of whether it should be owned individually or collectively has been discussed even before the time of Christ. It still is under discussion to this day. Though the sacred documents leave much room

A VIEW

From Page 10

can also be a source of reference for validation of lineage. In essence an individual with .01 percent blood quantum could own land, and be considered as a NMD if blood quantum requirements in the provision is amended. Adoption of non-NMDs should not be an issue, unless unscrupulous parties are egoistically profiting from the benefits of a CNMI adoption processes for land transactions. Proving Northern Marianas Descent kinship in questionable “adoption deals” will be a challenge, especially if put to a test by legal scrutiny or any traditional inquisitive methods. The Chamorro and Carolinian families know one of their own, and take care their own regardless of color, race, and national origin. Be it legal adoption processes or traditional adoption practices, if you’re family you’ll get your share.

Business

Lagarde's selection marks a break with IMF's past

WASHINGTON (AP)—During her interview for the top job at the International Monetary Fund last week, Christine Lagarde noticed a striking pattern. All the questions came from men.

"There was not one single woman," the French Finance Minister said Tuesday on French television.

Now there is.

On Tuesday, the IMF's 24-member board decided she should become the first woman to lead the global lending organization, which is recovering from a sex scandal involving the man she'll replace.

When she begins a five-year term next week, Lagarde will take charge of a melting pot of international elites—one that was known for male-dominated clubbiness well before the scandal involving Dominique Strauss-Kahn, her predecessor.

In her remarks to French television, she spoke to the cultural shift her selection represents.

"While I was being questioned for three hours by 24 men, I thought, 'It's good that things are changing a little,'" she said.

Not everything will change. Lagarde will become the 11th European to lead the IMF, extending a streak that began with the organization's creation in 1945. Among the challenges that await her, she must prod fellow Europeans to take painful steps to prevent a default by Greece.

She'll also face pressure from developing nations that want a greater voice at the IMF.

"I am deeply honored by the



French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde poses before giving a television interview, Tuesday June 28, 2011 in Paris, after she has been chosen to lead the International Monetary Fund.

trust placed in me," Lagarde said in a statement in Paris after the vote.

Should Lagarde, 55, succeed in changing the IMF's culture, it may have less to do with her gender than with her experience in corporate America.

Before she entered politics in 2005, Lagarde led the Chicago-based international law firm Baker & McKenzie for five years. American management tends to be less tolerant of sexual scandals and more likely to educate its staff on reporting harassment. At the IMF, Lagarde is likely to stress accountability and establish channels for reporting workplace grievances.

Her selection became all but assured once the Obama administration endorsed her earlier Tuesday. She had also won support from Europe, China and Russia. Mexico's Agustin Carstens challenged her, but his candidacy never caught fire.

Lagarde said her first priority is to unify the IMF's staff of 2,500 employees and 800 economists and restore their confidence in the organization.

She also said she wants to meet with Strauss-Kahn, if permitted by the U.S. government. Strauss-Kahn resigned last month after being charged with sexually assaulting a New York City hotel housekeeper. He has

denied the charges.

"I want to have a long talk with him, because a successor should talk with their predecessor," Lagarde said in the interview on French television channel TF1. "I can learn things from what he has to say about the IMF and its teams."

Lagarde, the first IMF leader who isn't an economist, will be expected most urgently to help stabilize Europe's debt crisis.

"This will put her in the position to work more closely with her European counterparts and



Christine Lagarde

Managing director of the International Monetary Fund

Early years

Born 1956, in Paris

Education Law degree from Law School of Paris X, master's degree, Institute of Political Studies

Career

1981-2005 Lawyer with the U.S. firm Baker & McKenzie, specializing in labor and anti-trust law; executive committee chair (1999-2004), the first woman to hold that post, then chair of the global strategy committee

2005-2007 French trade minister

2007-present French finance minister; first woman to hold this post in France or in any other G8 nation; famously said that the 2008 global financial crisis was caused partly by the banks' male-dominated, testosterone-fueled culture; played role in structuring aid for faltering eurozone members

Recognition

• Chevalier of the Legion of Honor; named Europe's best finance minister by the Financial Times

Selected IMF head

• First female IMF head; replaces Dominique Strauss-Kahn

Source: French Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry, BBC, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr © 2011 MCT

push them if needed," said Domenico Lombardi, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former member of the IMF's board.

Lagarde probably won't have

much impact on the next round of aid likely to be provided to Greece, which is being negotiated, analysts said. But eventually, European leaders and the IMF will be forced to forge a permanent solution to Greece's crisis. That could happen next year, said Michael Mussa, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

It's likely to involve restructuring some of Greece's debt, which means European banks and governments would likely suffer losses, he said. That will test Lagarde's political and negotiating skills.

Lagarde helped lead negotiations for a bailout package last year that combined European Union and IMF funds in a pool for highly indebted European countries. Some experts say Europe's leaders have been too timid in responding to the crisis and have been discredited by their failure to solve it for good.

"Everyone's credibility was damaged by advancing a plan that was not viable from the get-go," said Barry Eichengreen, an economics professor at University of California, Berkeley.

Lagarde moved to address that criticism last week when she met with the IMF's board. She told the board there was "no room for benevolence when tough choices must be made, and there is no option that does not start with difficult but necessary adjustments by the Greek authorities."

Japan factory output gains for 2nd month

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's industrial production rose for a second straight month as factories continued to recover after the sharp downturn from the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, the government said Wednesday.

Industrial output rose 5.7 percent in May from the previous month, according to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry report. In April, production was up 1.6 percent.

The May production numbers were lower than the government's rosier forecast of 8 percent rise for the month.

Still, the improvement adds to signs that the world's No. 3 economy is rebuilding after the disaster damaged factories

and disrupted manufacturing supply chains. Industrial production plunged a record 15.5 percent after the earthquake and tsunami devastated Japan's industrial northeast, crippled a nuclear power station that continues to leak radiation and caused widespread power shortages.

While factory output was still below pre-quake levels in May, the ministry upgraded its assessment of industrial production, describing it as "on a recovery trend."

The ministry measures output using an index, with 100 representing the 2005 base. May's seasonally adjusted level stood at 88.8, compared with 97.9 recorded in Febru-

ary, before the earthquake.

Sectors that drove the expansion include transport equipment, general machinery and chemicals.

Production figures released by automakers Tuesday indicated improving conditions, with Nissan Motor Co. posting year-on-year output gains in Japan and overseas.

Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn said earlier this week that production at his company has mostly recovered and will be back to normal by October.

The ministry forecast factory output to rise 5.2 percent in June and 0.5 percent in July.

Shipments in May grew 5.3 percent, and inventory rose 5.1 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Co-founder Biz Stone leaving Twitter

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Isaac "Biz" Stone is moving on from Twitter, just five years after co-founding the microblogging site that has become integral to the social media scene around the globe. Stone, 37, said Tuesday on his blog that he will work with the company "for many years to come," but that the most effective use of his time now is to "get out of the way" of Twitter's crew and leadership team until he's called upon to be of some specific use. Stone says he plans to focus on helping schools, nonprofits and company advisory boards. He's also relaunching Obvious Corp. with fellow Twitter co-founder Evan Williams to develop new projects.

Asia markets up as fears of economic slowdown ease

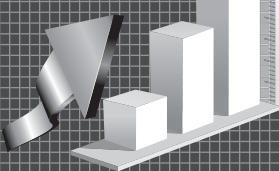
BANGKOK (AP)—Signs that a global economic slowdown may be less serious than previously thought and a recovery in manufacturing in post-quake Japan sent Asian stock markets higher Wednesday. Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 1 percent higher to 9,745.69 after the government said the country's industrial production

rose 5.7 percent in May. While the number was lower than the government's rosier forecast of 8 percent, the improvement adds to signs that the world's No. 3 economy is rebuilding after a March 11 earthquake and tsunami decimated the country's industrial northwest.

Google unveils latest social networking feat

NEW YORK (AP)—Online search leader Google Inc. is taking yet another stab at social networking, as it tries to go up against Facebook in this wildly popular and lucrative segment of the Internet. This time the project is called Google+ and it aims to make online sharing more like real life. "We think people communicate in very rich ways," said Vic Gundotra, senior vice president of engineering at Google. "The online tools we have to choose from give us very rigid services." Other social networking tools make selective sharing with-in small groups difficult. They don't allow for the nuances that people are used to in offline communication and because they call so many acquaintances "friends," said Gundotra in a blog post announcing the service.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,188.69	1,296.67	2,729.31
+145.13	+16.57	+41.03
+1.21%	+1.29%	+1.53%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9482	Indian Rupee	44.9575	Singapore Dollar	1.2385
	British Pound	0.6251	Indonesian Rupiah	8617.5	South Korean Won	1077.15
	Canadian Dollar	0.9806	Japanese Yen	81.065	Swiss Franc	0.8306
	Chinese Yuan	6.4661	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0374	Taiwan Dollar	28.891
	Euro	0.696	New Zealand Dollar	1.2305	Thailand Baht	30.8255

Nation

Los Alamos nuclear lab under siege from wildfire

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP)—A wildfire burning near the desert birthplace of the atomic bomb advanced on the Los Alamos laboratory and thousands of outdoor drums of plutonium-contaminated waste Tuesday as authorities stepped up efforts to protect the site and monitor the air for radiation.

Officials at the nation's premier nuclear weapons lab gave assurances that dangerous materials were safely stored and capable of withstanding flames from the 93-square-mile fire, which as of midday was as close as 50 feet from the grounds.

A small patch of land at the laboratory caught fire Monday before firefighters quickly put it out. Teams were on high alert to pounce on any new blazes and spent the day removing brush and low-hanging tree limbs from the lab's perimeter.

"We are throwing absolutely everything at this that we got," Democratic Sen. Tom Udall of New Mexico said in Los Alamos.

The fire has forced the evacuation of the entire city of Los Alamos, population 11,000, cast giant plumes of smoke over the region and raised fears among nuclear watchdogs that it will reach as many as 30,000 55-gallon drums of plutonium-contaminated waste.

"The concern is that these drums will get so hot that they'll burst. That would put this toxic material into the plume. It's a concern for everybody," said Joni Arends, executive director of the Con-



Los Alamos residents Ross Van Lyssel, left, and Steve Bowers watch flames from the Las Conchas fire in Los Alamos, N.M., Tuesday, June 28, 2011. AP

cerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, an anti-nuclear group.

Arends' organization also worried that the fire could stir up nuclear-contaminated soil on lab property where experiments were conducted years ago. Burrowing animals have brought that contamination to the surface, she said.

Lab officials said there was very little risk of the fire reaching the drums of low-level nuclear waste, since the flames would have to jump through canyons first. Officials also stood ready to coat the drums with fire-resistant foam if the blaze got too close.

Lab spokeswoman Lisa

Rosendorf said the drums contain Cold War-era waste that the lab sends away in weekly shipments for storage. She said the drums were on a paved area with few trees nearby. As of midday Tuesday, the flames were about two miles from the material.

"These drums are designed to a safety standard that would withstand a wildland fire worse than this one," Rosendorf said.

Los Alamos employs about 15,000 people, covers more than 36 square miles, includes about 2,000 buildings at nearly four dozen sites and plays a vital role in the nation's nuclear program.

The lab was created dur-

ing World War II as part of the Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb. It produced the weapons that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In the decades since, the lab has evolved into a major scientific and nuclear research facility. It stockpiles aging atomic materials, tests warheads, produces triggers for nuclear weapons and operates supercomputers and particle accelerators.

It also conducts research on such things as climate change and the development of a scanner for airports to detect explosive liquids. The lab's supercomputer was used in designing an HIV vaccine.

tory and taking into consideration the specific facts of each case, including immigration history."

Last year, four young people were arrested during a sit-in at U.S. Sen. John McCain's office in Arizona. Students at several suburban Atlanta high schools staged walkouts last month, and a group of seven illegal immigrant young people were arrested in April after they sat down in a downtown Atlanta street and blocked traffic to call attention to their situation. Five others were arrested in May at the Indiana office of Gov. Mitch Daniels after a protest grew confrontational.



Kansas abortion doctors sue to block state rules

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)—Two doctors who perform abortions in Kansas filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday to block a new licensing law and regulations that abortion rights advocates fear will make Kansas the first state in the country without an abortion provider.

Dr. Herbert Hodes and his daughter, Dr. Traci Nauser, argue that the new licensing process for abortion providers is a "sham" and the law and accompanying regulations are designed to stop the state's three abortion providers. One provider has already been denied a license.

Hodes and Nauser offer abortions and other services at the Center for Women's Health in Overland Park in suburban Kansas City, and their clinic was scheduled to be inspected by health department workers Wednesday. The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Kansas

City, said the doctors cancelled that inspection.

The law takes effect Friday. If a clinic doesn't have a license by then, it won't be able to perform abortions under the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's new regulations.

"At every step of the challenged process, KDHE implemented the licensing provisions ... in ways that made it impossible for existing medical practices to obtain a license by the effective date," the lawsuit said.

Supporters of the new law and regulations argue that both are aimed at protecting patients from substandard care. But abortion providers and their backers don't trust the licensing process because Gov. Sam Brownback, an anti-abortion Republican who took office in January, and abortion opponents pushed the law through the GOP-controlled Legislature.

6 young illegal immigrants arrested in Ga. protest

ATLANTA (AP)—Six young illegal immigrants were arrested Tuesday after they sat down and blocked traffic near the Georgia state Capitol to publicly declare their status and to protest state policies targeting people who are in the U.S. illegally, the latest in a string of such "coming out" events in Georgia and other parts of the country.

The young people were protesting a policy that bars Georgia's most competitive state colleges and universities from accepting illegal immigrants and that they were opposing strict new state legislation. A federal judge on Monday blocked two key provisions of

that law. The young people, who decided to risk arrest and deportation for their protest, say that's not enough.

Federal judges have now blocked parts of similar laws in Arizona, Utah, Indiana and Georgia from taking effect. Civil liberties groups have pledged to sue to block others in Alabama and South Carolina.

"It's time to stand up and let the world know that we need to fight for what we believe in," said Nataly Ibarra, a 16-year-old high school student.

Four of the young people arrested are high school students, one is a recent high school grad-

uate and one is a 24-year-old college graduate. All six face charges of reckless conduct, obstructing law enforcement and obstructing the street. The three who are under 18 were to be released to their parents. Two 18-year-olds and the 24-year-old were set to be taken to the Fulton County Jail.

Barbara Gonzalez, press secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, issued a statement after the arrests: "ICE takes enforcement action on a case by case basis—prioritizing those who present the most significant threats to public safety as determined by their criminal his-

accident caused by the unintentional mixing of two chemicals, the company said Tuesday. The accident Monday at the plant in Springdale resulted in the evacuation of about 300 workers, 173 of whom were treated at hospitals. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, chlorine gas can cause a range of respiratory problems, from irritated tissue

to sudden death from narrowing of the upper airway.

Blast victim fiancée: Proof of mine co. fake files

BEAVER, W.Va. (AP)—The fiancée of one of 29 miners killed in a West Virginia mine explosion says federal investigators have proof that Massey Energy kept fake safety records

for government inspectors. Bobbie Pauley says investigators on Tuesday showed families samples of official records alongside internal documents. Pauley's fiancée, Howard "Boone" Payne, died in the April 5, 2010 blast. Pauley and other relatives say federal Mine Safety and Health Administration officials revealed few other new details during a private briefing.

ACROSS THE NATION

NASA confirms July 8 for last shuttle launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The last space shuttle launch ever is set for July 8. NASA managers met at Kennedy Space Center on Tuesday and confirmed Friday, July 8, as the launch date for Atlantis. The 12-day mission will close out the 30-year shuttle program. NASA's chief of space opera-

tions, Bill Gerstenmaier, said there was no fanfare at the gathering, just a thorough look at the mission and all the problems resolved in recent weeks by the shuttle team. Atlantis will fly to the International Space Station with a year's worth of supplies. That's enough to keep the outpost going in case private U.S. companies fall behind in their effort to launch their own cargo

ships. The first such flight is targeted for later this year.

Dozens of Ark. chicken plant workers hospitalized

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (AP)—Five workers exposed to chlorine gas at a Tyson Foods Inc. chicken processing plant are in intensive care and about 50 others remain hospitalized after an

Asia

NATO helicopters end Kabul hotel siege, 7 dead

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban fighters armed with explosive vests, anti-aircraft weapons and grenade launchers raided an international hotel in Kabul on Tuesday and killed seven people on the eve of a conference to discuss plans for Afghan forces to take over security when international troops leave by the end of 2014.

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said guards at the Inter-Continental hotel killed two insurgents during the assault, which began about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday and ended about 3 a.m. Wednesday. Four other insurgents either blew themselves up or were killed on the roof of the hotel by NATO helicopter airstrikes.

A Taliban spokesman quickly claimed responsibility for the rare nighttime attack in the capital.

Coming on the eve of the transition conference, the attack threw a harsh light on President Barack Obama's recently announced plan to withdraw 33,000 U.S. troops from Afghanistan in a year and to end the American combat role by the end of 2014. Kabul has been designated as one of seven cities and provinces scheduled to start shifting from NATO to Afghan control in July.

Initially, Afghan security forces took the lead in the hotel battle, shutting off electrical power to the neighborhood around the hilltop building and rushing at least 200 troops to the scene. A team of Afghan commandos moved into the hotel, where 60 to 70 guests—including provincial officials from around the country and foreign visitors—hid in

their rooms as machine guns echoed. The insurgents made their last stand on the hotel rooftop, engulfing the top floor in flames and detonating bomb vests as Black Hawk helicopters fired at them with machine guns and rockets.

"We were locked in a room. Everybody was shooting and firing," said Abdul Zahir Faizada, head of the local council in Herat province in western Afghanistan. Like many others staying at the hotel, Faizada came to Kabul for the transition conference.

Nazar Ali Wahedi, chief of intelligence for Helmand province in the south, called the assailants "the enemy of stability and peace."

"Our room was hit by several bullets," Wahedi said. "We spent the whole night in our room."

Chinese mother gets 5 years for killing twin sons

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese court has sentenced a mother to a "lenient" five years in prison for murdering her paralyzed twin sons who needed full-time care, in a case that aroused public sympathy, state media reported Wednesday.

The official China Daily newspaper said Han Qunfeng gave her sons water laced with sleeping pills before drowning them in a bathtub in November.

The 13-year-olds had been born prematurely and had cerebral palsy.

Han confessed to the murders at a hearing earlier this month. "I just wanted them to leave quietly. I would not kill them if we could go back in time," Han told the judges, according to the newspaper.

After killing the boys, she dressed them in new pajamas and then attempted to take her own life by drinking a mixture of pesticide and rat poison, the

newspaper said.

An official from the Dongguan No. 1 People's Court in southern Guangdong province said Han was sentenced Tuesday.

"The judges believe, having taken care of her two paralyzed children for 13 years, she committed the crime when she was under great depression and despairing of life," said the official, who gave only her surname, Liao, as is customary for Chinese officials.

"By considering that the crime has caused only relatively small harm to society, the judges have given her a lenient sentence," Liao told The Associated Press.

Chinese courts usually deal harshly with murderers, sentencing them to death or long prison terms.

Han, 37, gave up her job as a bank clerk to care for her children when she found it difficult to hire nannies. Han's husband

forgave her for the murders because the family was at the brink of bankruptcy after spending all its savings on treating the twins in hospitals, state media reported.

Han's case aroused sympathy from neighbors and former colleagues who wrote a joint letter to the court pleading for mercy.

"She deserved the lenient sentence. The murders resulted from years of mental burden," one of the judges, Xue Fengyan, was quoted as saying by the China Daily.

"Depression is not an excuse for committing a crime," said Hao Xingwang, a law professor at Renmin University in Beijing. "But the mother must have suffered great economic and psychological pressure when taking care of the children. According to laws, it's appropriate for her to get a sentence of between three and 10 years in prison."

five villages in Davao city late Tuesday, overflowing rivers and triggering a deluge that reached 10 feet (3 meters) high in some places. The floodwaters subsided Wednesday but rescuers are still searching for at least 13 missing people.

Tour boat abandons US snorkeler on Australian reef

SYDNEY (AP)—Australian safety officials said Wednesday that they were investigating a dive boat company that accidentally left a U.S. tourist behind while he was snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef, forcing the panicked man to swim to another boat for help. A spokesman for the company denied Ian Cole was ever in danger. But the incident drew immediate comparisons to the infamous case of Americans Tom and Eileen Lonergan, who died in 1998 after their tour boat left while they were scuba diving on the reef. Officials believe they drowned or were eaten by sharks. Cole, 28, of Michigan, said he was snorkeling on Saturday when he lifted his head out of the water and realized his tour boat, the Passions of Paradise, was nowhere in sight.

World

46 hurt in clashes on eve of key Greek vote

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Hours of rioting outside Greece's parliament left 46 people injured Tuesday, on the eve of a vote by lawmakers to adopt more painful austerity measures—a condition for bailout funds needed to prevent a potentially disastrous default.

At least 14 people were arrested, authorities said, as youths clashed with riot police on-and-off for more than 10 hours and into the night, leaving the city center filled with tear gas and strewn with smashed-up marble paving stones. Union had begun a 48-hour strike that shut down services and staged mass rallies through the capital in another day of chaotic protest.

The new austerity measures must be passed in a two-part vote on Wednesday and Thursday if Greece's international creditors are to release the next euro12 billion batch of the country's euro110 billion bailout fund—and prevent a default that could drag down European banks and



Riot police arrest a protester during a demonstration in Athens, Tuesday June 28, 2011.

shake the European and world economy.

"Voting these measures is required to maintain our credibility in the (bailout) process," Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos said. "Voting for these measures, regardless of any reservations, is an important, brave act of political responsibility."

The Socialist government, which survived a revolt by party dissenters this month, is

again taking them on by imposing the new punishing four-year program of spending cuts and tax hikes on even those on minimum wages—prompting anger inside parliament and out on the street. The government has a majority of just five seats in the 300-member assembly.

More than 5,000 police will again be on hand Wednesday to try and thwart plans by protesters to block lawmakers' access to parliament.

Yemen bombs anti-government tribal area

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemeni government warplanes and artillery pounded several villages of anti-government tribes north of the capital on Tuesday, killing at least three people, a senior tribal leader said.

Sheik Ali Youssef of the Naham tribe said that Republican Guard forces, which are commanded by embattled President Ali Abdullah Saleh's son, began bombarding the villages scattered in the Naham mountain area, some 20 miles (30 kilometers) north of Sanaa, on Monday, continued throughout Tuesday.

Youssef said at least three people were killed, 48 houses destroyed and hundreds of people forced to flee their homes in the assault.

The Naham mountain area has seen clashes between government forces and anti-Saleh

tribes since Yemen's popular uprising against Saleh's rule began in mid-February. Tribesmen there frequently have prevented government troops stationed at bases in the area from deploying to the capital.

Also Tuesday, Yemen's Defense Ministry said government forces killed nine al-Qaida suspects in clashes in Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan province in southern Yemen.

Residents in southern cities have criticized government forces for showing little appetite to face down the Islamist extremists in the south. The militants have already seized Zinjibar and now are operating openly, training with live ammunition and controlling roads with checkpoints.

Their gains have fueled fears that they are successfully ex-

plotting the power vacuum and turmoil caused by a popular uprising against Saleh that began in February. The revolt gained momentum when a coterie of the president's close aides, military commanders and Cabinet ministers joined the protesters.

Saleh, who has ruled Yemen for nearly 33 years, left for neighboring Saudi Arabia on June 5 to treat severe wounds he suffered when his compound in the capital Sanaa was attacked. It is not clear when—or if—he will return, deepening uncertainty in the poor nation at the southern corner of the Arabian Peninsula.

Also on Tuesday, a U.N. delegation has arrived in Yemen and held a meeting with the country's acting president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, the vice president.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Group: Philippine president hasn't improved rights

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An international human rights group says Philippine President Benigno Aquino III has done little during his first year in office to fulfill his campaign promise to achieve justice for human rights victims. Human Rights Watch says Aquino has undertaken a number of reforms but measures to prosecute members of the military and police for serious human rights violations have fallen short. The New York-based group said Wednesday that killings and disappearances have continued and police investigations have stalled.

Flash floods in Philippines kill 11; 13 missing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Flash floods triggered by torrential rains have swept away dozens of houses in the southern Philippines and killed at least 11 people, most of them children. Civil defense officer Fe Austria Kalimpo says eight of the victims were between the ages of 3 and 8. She says they drowned when heavy rains swamped

WORLD BRIEFS

Prosecutor presses inner circle on Gadhafi arrest

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court urged Moammar Gadhafi's own aides Tuesday to arrest the Libyan leader and turn him over for trial on murder and persecution charges—or risk prosecution themselves. As battles raged through a fifth month between Gadhafi's forces and rebels backed by NATO airstrikes, prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo was optimistic that Gadhafi's rule would be over within two or three months. On Monday, the court issued arrest warrants for the Libyan leader, his son Seif and intelligence chief Abdullah al-Sanoussi for crimes against humanity. But the court has no police force, and relies on the law enforcement agencies

of the 115 countries that ratified the court's founding statute.

Images show Chavez on his feet after Cuba surgery

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—New videos and photos of President Hugo Chavez appeared on state television Tuesday night, showing him on his feet and talking with Fidel Castro more than two weeks after undergoing urgent surgery in Cuba. An aide to the Venezuelan leader said the encounter in Cuba took place earlier in the day. "We see him recovering," Information Minister Andres Izarra said on state television as the short video clips and photographs were shown of Chavez standing and talking outdoors with Castro. Cuban state TV also broadcast pictures of the get-together.

Focus

A fight over a girl, and God's law

MONTPELIER, Vermont (AP)—Lisa Miller's path from lesbian in committed relationship to international fugitive started in 2003.

She broke up with her partner, Janet Jenkins, renounced homosexuality and became an evangelical Christian before disappearing in 2009 with the daughter she had with Jenkins.

Now, what started as a custody battle over Isabella Miller-Jenkins has turned into a global manhunt, with indications that Mennonite pastors and other faith-based supporters may have helped hide the two in Nicaragua and are now coming to the aid of one who the FBI says helped Miller.

Eager to keep the girl away from Jenkins and what they consider a dangerous and immoral lifestyle, they liken their roles to that of underground helpers aiding runaway slaves.

"God's Holy Law never recognizes a gay marriage," said Pablo Yoder, a Mennonite pastor in Nicaragua, in an email message to The Associated Press. "Thus, the Nicaraguan Brotherhood felt it right and good to help Lisa not only free herself from the so called civil marriage and lesbian lifestyle, but especially to protect her nine year old daughter from being abducted and handed over to an active lesbian and a whole-hearted activist."

As the gay marriage movement gains momentum in the U.S. with impending legal recognition of the relationships in New York state, the case is a reminder of the obstacles and opposition that same-sex couples and their families can face.

The saga began in 2000, when Miller and Jenkins were joined in a civil union in Vermont. Two years later, Miller gave birth to the girl, conceived through artificial insemination. The couple split in 2003, with Miller renouncing her homosexuality and becoming a Baptist, then a Mennonite.

Miller was originally granted custody of the girl, but her defiance of visitation schedules led courts in Vermont and Virginia to rule in favor of Jenkins, culminating in a judge's 2009 decision to award custody to Jenkins.

After Miller and the girl failed to show for a court-ordered custody swap on Jan. 1, 2010, to hand the girl over to Jenkins, the hunt was on. A federal arrest warrant was issued for Miller, and her daughter's name was added to the missing by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

But they were long gone: In 2009, two months before the judge ordered the custody change, Miller and the girl flew to Central America and took up residence for an unknown amount of time in Nicaragua before vanishing again.

So says the FBI, which revealed in April that it had arrested Nicaraguan missionary Timothy David "Timo" Miller and charged him with abetting an international kidnapping by helping arrange travel and lodging for the two. He is awaiting trial.

According to the FBI, Timo Miller—no relation to Lisa Miller—arranged to fly Miller and her daughter from Canada to Augusto C. Sandino International Airport in Managua.

He'd never met her until they arrived

By **FILADELFO ALEMAN** and **JOHN CURRAN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this April 17, 2008 file photo, Lisa Miller answers questions about her custody battle during a news conference immediately following arguments for her case before the court at the State Capitol in Richmond, Va.

at the airport, according to Loyal Martin, a friend of Timo Miller's.

Timo Miller has pleaded not guilty and is free on \$25,000 bail, awaiting trial. His attorney, federal public defender Steven Barth, won't discuss the case. Another lawyer for Timo Miller, Jeffrey Conrad, didn't respond to a request for comment.

"Tim believes there is a higher law than the laws of any country that all people, including himself, are accountable to," said Martin, 40, of Philadelphia, New York, who attended Miller's first court appearance.

In an April 1 affidavit outlining the charge against Timo Miller, FBI agent Dana Kaegel noted the involvement of religious groups and others with Lisa Miller's case.

At a minimum, she appears to have had the support in the Mennonite community outside the capital of Managua.

Yoder, who works the remote village of Waslala, 160 miles (260 kilometers) from Managua, told the AP that she celebrated her daughter's birthday in his house last year.

"She came here to have a good time, and we allowed her to celebrate her daughter's birthday in my house because of the love we have for the girl," Pablo Yoder said.

Yoder, who is mentioned in the FBI's affidavit over an email exchange with Timo Miller planning the party, told the

AP in an interview that he couldn't remember how long she stayed. She slept at the house of another pastor, according to Yoder, who would not name that person for fear it would lead to questioning by police.

Members of the church made a pact not to reveal any details to protect Timothy David Miller.

"We want to remain silent because we do not know whether it would cause him problems," Yoder said. "The mo-

AP Enterprise

ment may arrive when we are going to want to talk, when we deem it necessary to tell Nicaragua the true story."

Nicaraguan police haven't questioned Yoder and other members of his church, he said in an interview last month.

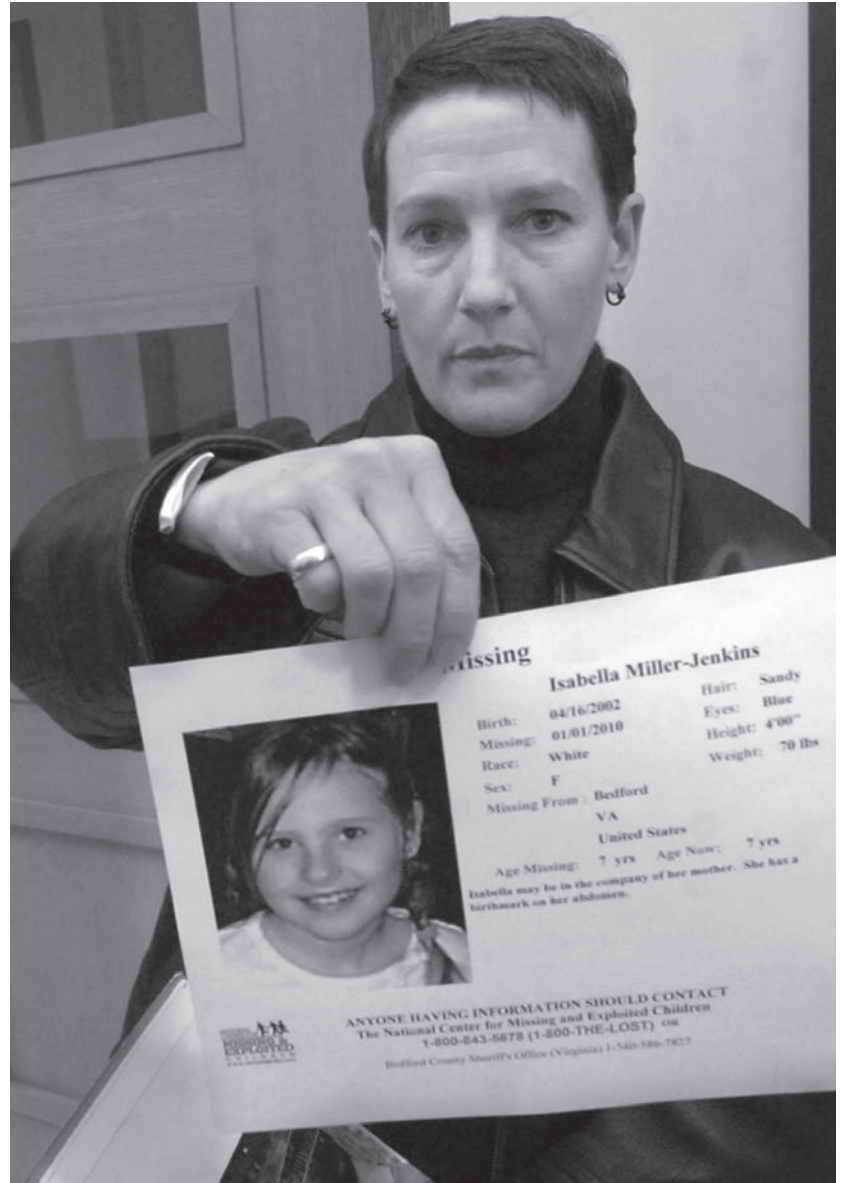
"They know we are not involved in this matter," said Yoder.

Richard Huber, of Myerstown, Pennsylvania, a friend of Timo Miller's who agreed to assume custody of him after his first court appearance, sees his friend's actions as faith-based.

"Choosing to heed God's law over man's would be an accurate way of putting it," he said in an email message.

Miller may have gotten help from others drawn to her predicament for religious reasons.

The lawyer for Miller's ex-partner,



In this Feb. 23, 2010 file photo, Janet Jenkins, of Fair Haven, Vt., involved in a same-sex custody battle with Lisa Miller, holds up a photo of her daughter, Isabella, for television cameras in Rutland, Vt.

Janet Jenkins, told the FBI she got a call in June 2010 from someone—she won't say who—who told her that Lisa Miller and the girl had stayed in a beach house in coastal San Juan del Sur, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) south of Managua.

The house is owned by Philip Zodhates, the father of Liberty University law school administrative assistant Victoria Hyden, according to the FBI. Jenkins' attorney, Sarah Star, told the FBI that the caller said Zodhates had asked his daughter to put out a request for supplies for Lisa Miller.

Located in Lynchburg, Virginia, Liberty University was founded by the late Rev. Jerry Falwell. An affiliate of the university, conservative Christian law firm Liberty Counsel, formerly represented Miller in her custody case in Vermont.

Law school dean Mathew Staver—who leads Liberty Counsel—has said Zodhates isn't affiliated with either.

"From our perspective, she just dropped off the face of the Earth. We haven't heard from her or from anyone who said they've heard from her," Staver said of Lisa Miller.

Miller, 42, is wanted by the FBI and Interpol, which recently requested the help of Nicaraguan police in the search. U.S. Embassy officials in Nicaragua said they don't know where she is.

"We have clues, but we do not want

to reveal them so as not to hinder our investigation," Fernando Borge, spokesman for the Nicaraguan national police, told the AP last month. "We can't say either, at the moment, whether she is or is not in the country."

A security guard at the hotel Royal Chateau in San Juan del Sur, Juan Garcia, told the AP last month he remembered seeing Miller and her daughter along the waterfront.

International law would not require the return of the child if she were found in Nicaragua, since it's not a treaty partner with the U.S. under the Hague Conventions, according to Robert Spector, an international family law expert.

"The only way you could get the child back is by somehow asking Nicaragua to enforce a U.S. custody determination," said Spector, a law professor at the University of Oklahoma who is not involved in the case.

Back in Vermont, Jenkins waits for word on their whereabouts, a break in the case—or both.

"It is hard to understand how anyone could consider a childhood on the run better and more stable than one surrounded by family, with two parents and two sets of grandparents who can provide love and support," Jenkins, who declined to be interviewed for this story, said in an email.

Aleman reported from Nicaragua.

Environment

A secret to saving on sports equipment

By **TERRI BENNETT**
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

We all have a favorite sport. As the mom of a baseball, soccer, basketball, and football-loving son, I know that many kids today have a different favorite sport every season! All of his equipment can really take a toll on the wallet but it also takes a toll on the planet. Let me share a secret with you. There's no need to buy new when you can easily get your hands on perfectly good used equipment that still has a lot of life left. To make it easy for you to track down what you need, here are my 'Top 5 Sources of Used Sporting Goods' to help you Do Your Part.

1) USED SPORTS EQUIPMENT STORES

It's tough to tell you're in a used sporting equipment store sometimes.

That's because the sporting goods up for sale have barely been used and can even be brand new. No matter what you're looking for, you can save up to 70 percent off what it would cost you to buy new. Shops such as Play It Again Sports will even let you trade in some of your old equipment and receive cash or a store credit.

2) ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS

Using online auction sites such as eBay for sporting goods can get you a good deal but you may be paying a fortune in shipping costs. Instead, check out eBay's classifieds site, which

lets you view only the listings that are near where you live. It's not an auction, instead the price is posted next to the listings and you can make your own pick-up arrangements with the seller. Or, check out your local Craig's List postings, which work in a similar fashion.

3) ONLINE DEALS

Sometimes, it just makes sense to shop online for smaller items, which

don't cost too much to ship. It could be a glove your child needs or a pair of soccer shoes. In that case, there are several sports-specific online spots that will help you find whatever you may need. Amazon.com, eBay.com, and UsedSports.com are some good options.

4) YARD SALES

Yard sales are where the biggest bargains can be found but it takes some

work to find what you're looking for. Your best bet is to get to yard sales that advertise sporting goods early so you get first dibs on the good stuff.

5) RENT THE EXPENSIVE STUFF

There are times when you need expensive sporting equipment but only for a limited time. In that case, why buy when you can rent? You can opt for renting things like bikes, skiing equip-

ment, and golf clubs at independent businesses or national chains.

It's easy to find used sporting goods and it's another way to Do Your

Part to reuse items that still have plenty of life in them. Now that's something everyone can cheer about—no matter what sport your child's playing at the moment!

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.



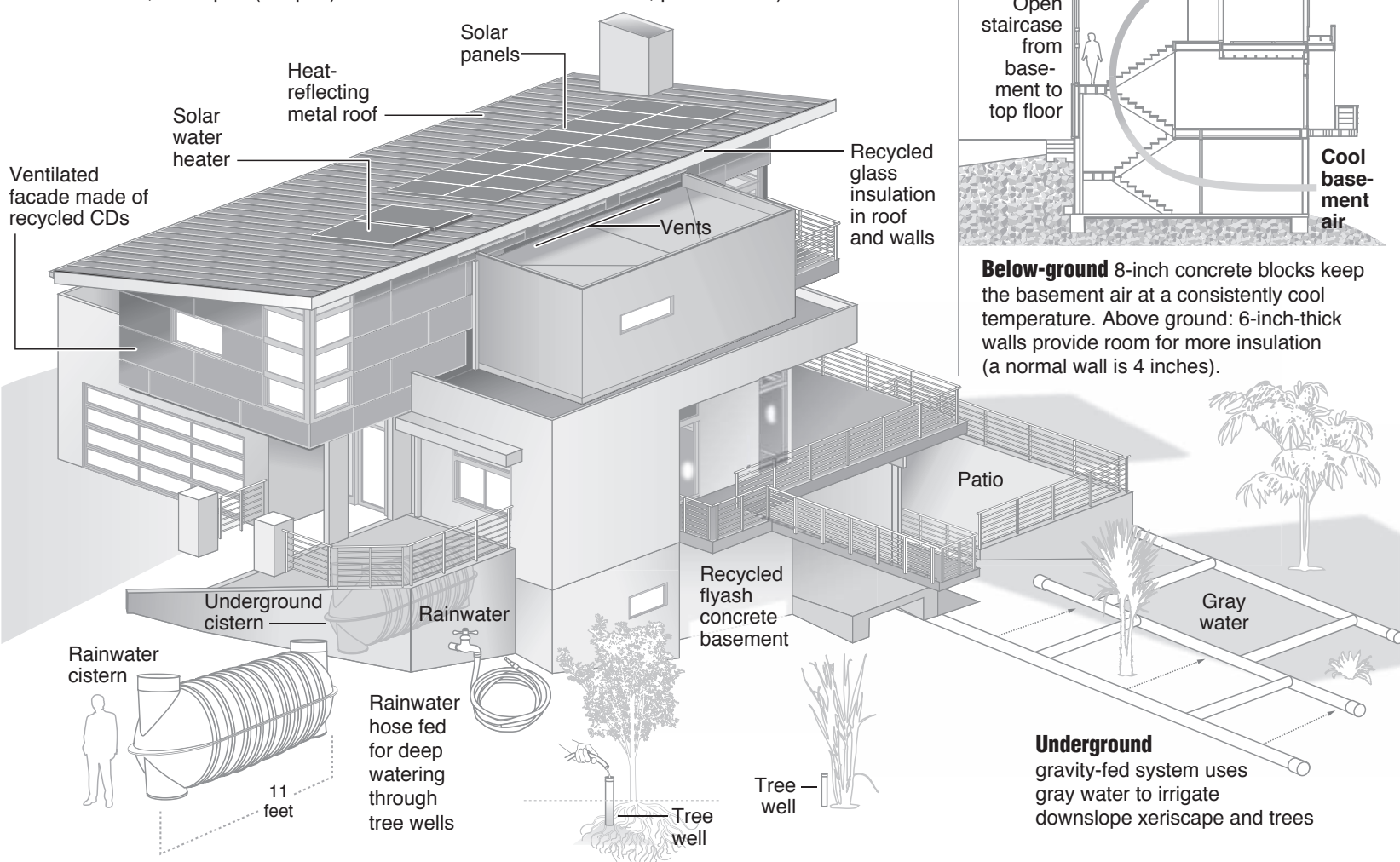
MCT

"Do Your Part" to reuse items that still have plenty of life in them.

An especially green house in L.A.

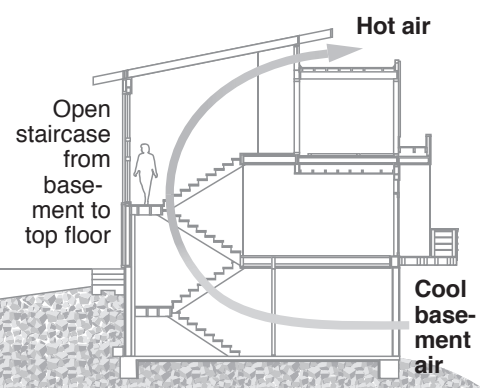
A Mount Washington, Calif., couple designed and built their home incorporating sustainable products and green functions. Most notable: a gray water system to collect used laundry and bath water; a gravity-based irrigation system using the gray water; stack venting to cool the home; and a gigantic cistern to store rainwater in.

- Architect/owners: Frank Pasker, Grit Leipert
- Construction cost: \$250 per square foot
- Home size: 2,400 sq. ft. (x sq. m)
- Excludes land, permit costs)



Stack venting for natural cooling

The open staircase acts as a vent when basement and upper windows are opened: Cool air is drawn up and hot air pushed out.



Below-ground 8-inch concrete blocks keep the basement air at a consistently cool temperature. Above ground: 6-inch-thick walls provide room for more insulation (a normal wall is 4 inches).

Underground gravity-fed system uses gray water to irrigate downslope xeriscape and trees

Images may not be to scale
Source: Graphics reporting by Tia Lai Graphic by: Mark Hafer, Los Angeles Times

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EPA, Coast Guard to enforce air pollution limits for vessels operating in US waters

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard announced this week an agreement to jointly enforce U.S. and international air pollution requirements for vessels operating in U.S. waters.

The requirements establish limits on nitrogen oxides, or NOx, emissions and require the use of fuel with lower sulfur content, protecting people's health and the environment by reducing ozone-producing pollution, which can cause smog and aggravate asthma. The most stringent requirements apply to ships operating within 200 nautical miles of the coast of North America.

"Today's agreement forges a strong partnership between EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard, advancing our shared commitment to enforce air emissions standards for ships operating in U.S. waters," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Reducing harmful air pollution is a priority for EPA and by working with the Coast Guard we will ensure that the ships moving through our waters meet their environmental obligations, protecting our nation's air quality and the health of our coastal communities."

"This agreement demonstrates the Coast Guard's long-standing commitment to protecting our nation's marine environment," said Rear Adm. Kevin Cook, director of Prevention Policy for the U.S. Coast Guard. "Aligning our capabilities with EPA enhances our commitment to the marine environment while minimizing the impact on shipping."

The large marine diesel engines that provide propulsion and auxiliary power on many ocean-going vessels emit significant amounts of pollution. Without further action, EPA estimates that by 2030, NOx emissions from ships will more than double, growing to 2.1 million tons per year.

The memorandum of understanding signed by EPA and the USCG outlines the agencies' commitment to jointly enforce federal and international laws that EPA projects could prevent 12,000-31,000 premature deaths annually by 2030. Under the MOU, both the USCG and EPA will perform inspections and investigations, and will take appropriate enforcement actions if a violation is detected. **(EPA)**

Life & Style

90 years ago, boxer Johnson sought his own pardon

By **FREDERIC J. FROMMER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. congressional supporters of a pardon for Jack Johnson, the world's first black heavyweight champion who was imprisoned nearly a century ago for his romantic relationships with white women, say his prosecution was racially motivated. Johnson made the same argument 90 years ago while in prison, records at the National Archives show.

In a March 25, 1921 letter to Attorney General Harry Daugherty, Johnson said the prosecutor in his trial made "flagrant

appeals to passion, race hatred and moral infamies."

During his 10 months in prison, Johnson sought parole, filed an application with the president seeking clemency, and wrote letters to the attorney general seeking early release. And he almost pulled it off. Daugherty publicly raised the possibility of letting Johnson out a couple of weeks early, before announcing on June 28, 1921—90 years ago on Tuesday—that Johnson would have to complete his sentence.

Now, under a black president and black attorney general, the Justice Department is against pardoning Johnson. In the last

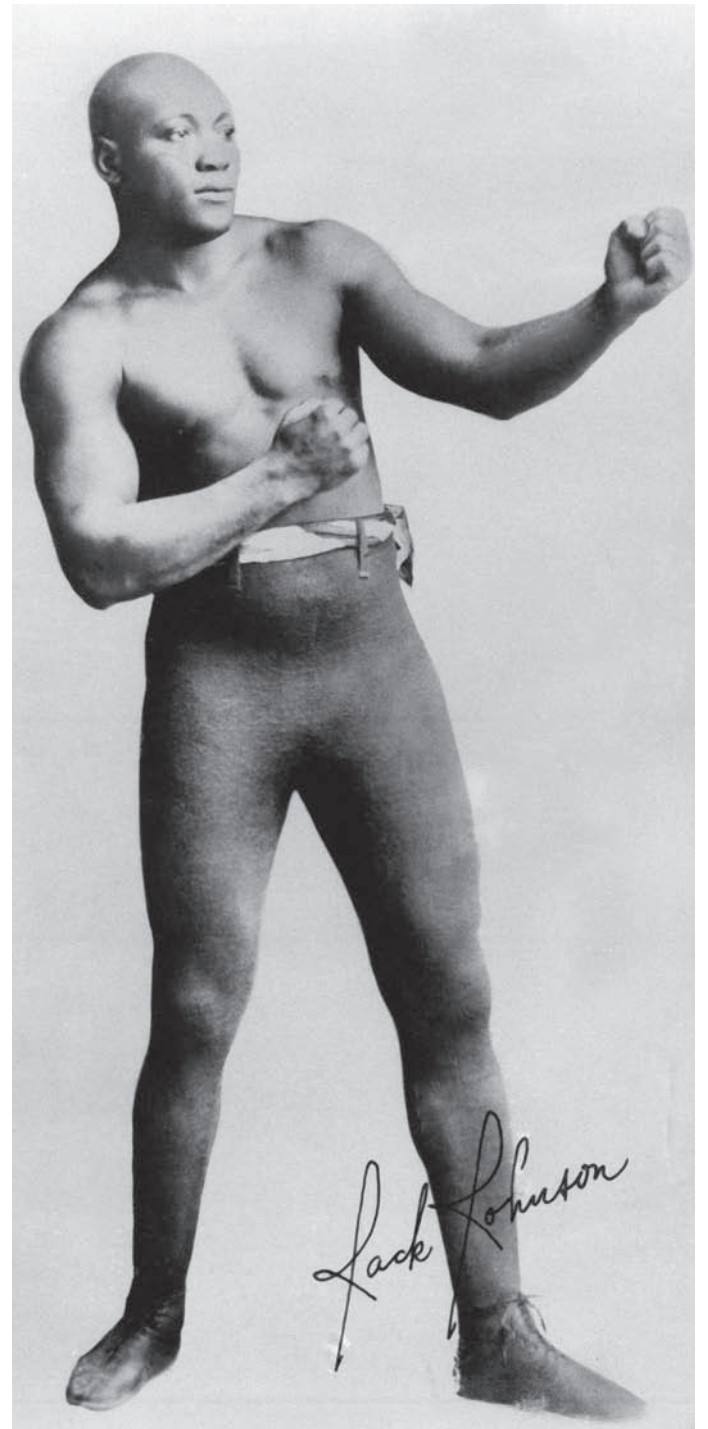
session of Congress, both houses of Congress passed a resolution urging a pardon pushed by Senator John McCain and congressman Peter King, "to expunge a racially motivated abuse of the prosecutorial authority of the federal government." But President Barack Obama has not acted on it.

While Obama hasn't commented publicly on the matter, the Justice Department's pardon attorney told McCain and King that the DOJ's resources are best used for pardoning the living. Still, the lawmakers are making another run at the pardon this year.

On June 23, 1921, The As-

sociated Press reported that Daugherty was considering a pardon for the boxer in time for a heavyweight fight between Jack Dempsey and Georges Carpentier the following month. Eyeing a comeback, Johnson wanted to attend the fight, which would become the first \$1 million gate in boxing history.

"Mr. Daugherty said Johnson had been a model prisoner and a 'liberty bonus' has been suggested," the story reported. "The Attorney General declared he would not consider pardoning Johnson to enable him to attend the championship fight, but that, of course, if any clemency was extended, Johnson's time



This undated file photo shows World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Jack Johnson. AP

Push presents for mom: easy bling or heartfelt?

By **LEANNE ITALIE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Rachel Zoe has a beautiful baby boy. To celebrate, husband Rodger Berman gave her a "push present" in the form of a 10-carat diamond ring that cost \$250,000.

Mariah Carey got a push present, too: a \$12,000 pink diamond and sapphire necklace from husband Nick Cannon with the names of their twins, Moroccan and Monroe. Peggy Tanous of "The Real Housewives of Orange County" turned her megamommy gift into a tagline:

"Soccer moms drive a minivan, but this girl drives a Bentley."

Back here on Earth, where the rest of us live and spend, can new dads get away with a simple bouquet of flowers, a token bauble with the new arrival's birthstone or—as one father suggested—a kiss and a smile? And what do feminists make of the arguably medieval notion of rewarding a woman for producing an heir?

Gina Crosley-Corcoran, who writes The Feminist Breeder blog, was pregnant with her third child in April when she found herself ruminating on the subject, in response to some doubters on her Facebook page:

"As I sit here in my hugely pregnant state, suffering from heartburn, gas, leg pain, hip pain, insomnia, fatigue, irritability, anxiety, heat flashes, gastric upset, swelling, and everything else that comes with having an entirely formed human being kicking around in my womb, who will soon demand on coming OUT of my womb through a relatively small orifice in a not-at-all-pleasant feeling manner, I cannot help but think Seriously?!?! Seriously. A freaking diamond is the LEAST he can do."

It was a girl for the 33-year-old prelaw student, women's

rights advocate, doula (a person who helps a new mother and the baby), and former rock chick in a band. She live-blogged the birth, her first at home, and received a tiny diamond (her baby girl's birthstone) for a pendant she and her husband had begun with the birthstones of their two boys.

"I was surprised that people equated push presents to, like, giving a horse a prize at the end of the race," Crosley-Corcoran said. "I agree the term push present could be changed. Let's just call them birth presents."

There is no official history of push presents, a term some object to on the ground that it cheapens the occasion. By some accounts, postpartum bling seems to have made its way to the United States over the last decade or so from England, where a ring was in order, and from India, where gold jewelry was the way to go (boys apparently meant more gold than girls, traditionally speaking).

The idea was not lost on jewelers. The retailer Mayors took on the tradition in a 2005 ad campaign for diamond studs: "She delivered your first born, now give her twins." Fortunoff thought up a push present registry in 2007. That was the year BabyCenter.com surveyed 30,000 women and found 38 percent of new moms got push presents and 55 percent of the still-pregnant wanted one.

In fact, it is hard to find a naysayer.

"Giving birth is hard work, and I am not going to quibble with anyone piling any kind of gift at any woman's feet," said Naomi Wolf, the third-wave feminist author of "The Beauty Myth" and, more to the point, "Misconceptions." In that book, she chronicled the not-so-smooth experience of having her first child and her angsty start on motherhood.

"I think women do expect more than flowers because of what our society and media

have told them they should expect," said Jessica LeRoy, founder and clinical director of the Center for the Psychology of Women, a feminist-based psychotherapy practice in Los Angeles. "It is a status symbol, and women feel this need to measure up, their child to measure up and their partner. This is an actual outward expression of their status and family."

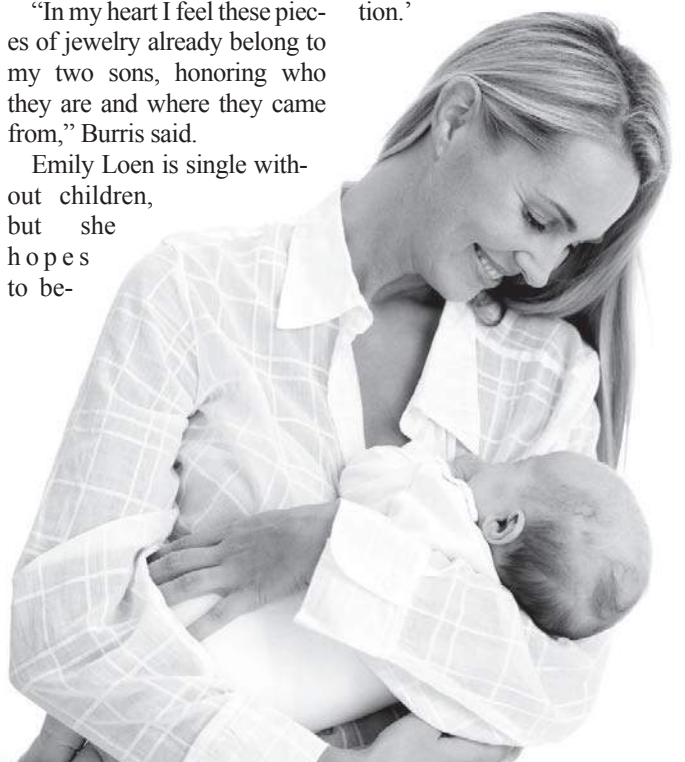
Kristen Burris in Eagle, Idaho, used to be a push present skeptic. The acupuncturist and herbalist thought the idea was "self-indulgent and ridiculous," yet another way to turn childbirth into an over-the-top outgrowth of a consumer-driven culture.

Then she got pregnant. While attempting natural childbirth, Burris pushed for 12 hours without success and was treated to an emergency C-section, done, she said, without adequate anesthesia. After, her husband's grandmother gave her a pair of diamond studs she had previously borrowed for seven hours to wear at her wedding.

Her second baby came with an upgrade of the center stone in her engagement ring.

"In my heart I feel these pieces of jewelry already belong to my two sons, honoring who they are and where they came from," Burris said.

Emily Loen is single without children, but she hopes to be-



come a mother eventually. She also is organizer for the Bay Area Coalition for Our Reproductive Rights in San Francisco.

To follow up childbirth with a "trivial trinket" seems "very shallow, stupid and insipid," Loen said. But, in the end, she added, "Feminism is about choice. It comes down to whatever floats your boat."

Does Gloria Steinem approve of push presents?

"Unfortunately Gloria doesn't have a comment on this, not having much personal experience with it nor the experiences of friends to go off of," her office said in an email.

Loen is 29. Steinem is 77, so maybe there's a generational shift. "Marriage is socialism among two people," women's rights thinker Barbara Ehrenreich once said. Nearly a decade Steinem's junior, she, too, had never heard of push presents.

"I mean, the baby used to be enough of a reward," Ehrenreich said. "But I suppose that if you're not really into babies, you might need a little more 'incentivization.'"

would be his own."

But he changed his tune five days later. According to an AP account, the AG said that "considering the crime he did not feel that the parole privileges should be extended merely to allow Johnson to witness the world's title fight Saturday," even though he had said just a few days earlier that wasn't the reason he was considering letting Johnson out.

Johnson was hated by many white Americans, especially after retaining his title by defeating white boxer Jim Jeffries in the 1910 "Fight of the Century." Jeffries had come out of retirement for the bout, and Johnson's victory infuriated whites, setting off deadly race riots across the country.

Three years later, Johnson was convicted of violating the Mann Act, which made it illegal to transport women across state lines for immoral purposes. But the flamboyant boxer's real crime had been flaunting white society by having romantic relationships with white women.

Authorities first targeted his

relationship with Lucille Cameron, who later became his wife, but she refused to cooperate. They then turned to Johnson's former mistress, a prostitute named Belle Schreiber, to testify that Johnson had paid her train fare from Pittsburgh to Chicago, for immoral purposes. An all-white jury convicted Johnson in 1913, and he skipped bail and fled the country. But in 1920 Johnson agreed to return and serve his sentence.

Johnson was still in prison when Dempsey knocked out Carpentier in the fourth round in front of 80,183 fans on July 2. One week later, Johnson, 43, walked out of prison and told reporters he wanted to challenge Dempsey for the heavyweight title, brushing aside Dempsey's vow to fight only white boxers.

"It doesn't make any difference what Dempsey says about drawing the color line: The public wants Dempsey whipped," Johnson said. "And the public knows I am the one to do it."

But Johnson, who died in 1946, never got his shot at Dempsey.

An insider's view of 'Transformers'

By RENE RODRIGUEZ
THE MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—Patrick Dempsey has been making movies since he was a teenager ("Can't Buy Me Love," "Some Girls," "Coupe de Ville"), and he has managed to keep his career going as an adult, in romantic comedies ("Sweet Home Alabama") and most famously as the star of the hit TV series "Gray's Anatomy," on which he plays a hunky doctor his legions of fans have nicknamed McDreamy.

But Dempsey, 44, had never acted in a big-budget action picture—and the long wait landed him a doozy of a spectacle. In director Michael Bay's "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," he plays Dylan, a wealthy car collector and entrepreneur who figures into the plot in a surprising way and allows the actor to



Actor Patrick Dempsey attends the 'Transformers: Dark Of The Moon' premiere in Times Square on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 in New York.

exercise some acting muscles he had never used before.

"There was one reason to do 'Transformers': to show that I can do this kind of movie," Dempsey said recently from Los Angeles. "I had met Michael at a Ferrari event a year ago, and we got to talking about cars and that I race, and he told me about this character in the movie who did the same thing. There were a lot of really wonderful things that clicked into place. I read the script and really liked it, and I thought it would be fun to do something like this. It's unexpected, coming from me. I need to show people I can do different things than the things I've been doing up to this point."

What about Bay's reputation for being a demanding director who punishes his actors?

"In one of the first meetings we had, he said, 'Look, I want

you there on the set first thing in the morning. You won't be going back and forth to your trailer. I'm ready to work 12 hours straight nonstop.' And

he's there, on the set, ready to go from the moment he gets out of his car, and he expects you to be there right behind him. As long as you do that, you have a really good time. He has an amazing attention for detail, and the sheer size of this

movie is just incredible. The amount of focus and attention it takes to get everything working, and the amount of different teams he has to keep organized—he's a really good leader, and he's very passionate about what he does."

R&B diva LaBelle files countersuit in beating case

HOUSTON (AP)—Veteran R&B diva Patti LaBelle says in a countersuit filed against a West Point cadet who claims she ordered her bodyguards to beat him up outside a Houston airport terminal that the altercation began after the cadet hurled racial insults at her.

But an attorney for the cadet, Richard King, denied his client ever said any racial slurs to LaBelle.

King's attorneys say he was waiting to be picked up by family outside one of the terminals at Bush Intercontinental Airport on March 11 when three of LaBelle's bodyguards attacked him without provocation.

King, who was in his hometown of Houston while on spring break from West Point, filed his lawsuit earlier this month, naming LaBelle, the three bodyguards, one of whom is the singer's son, and two others as defendants.

King's lawyers say the alleged attack resulted in a concussion and lingering dizziness and headaches for the cadet. A surveillance video from the airport that was previously released by King's attorneys shows the 23-year-old cadet being pushed and punched by two men and a woman, all alleged to be LaBelle's bodyguards.

LaBelle filed a countersuit last week, accusing the cadet of attacking her bodyguards after he directed profane and racial slurs toward the singer.

In the countersuit, LaBelle's lawyers accuse King of being intoxicated, staggering around outside the terminal, screaming obscenities and trying to enter the singer's limousine. King was politely asked to walk away from the vehicle, according to

the countersuit. King's attorneys have said the cadet had a few drinks on the flight to Houston but denied he was intoxicated.

"King directed profane and racial slurs towards LaBelle. When LaBelle's son (Zuri Edwards) heard the profanity and racial epithets, he informed King that the woman in the limousine was his mother,"

the suit said. "Without warning or provocation, King violently and deliberately punched Edwards in the face."

The surveillance video, which has no audio, shows King talking on a cell phone when one of LaBelle's bodyguards appeared to push up against him. It appeared that King then pushed him back. King's attorneys have said King did not push back but was protecting himself from a punch.



LaBelle

Q&A with 'Criminal Minds' star Joe Mantegna

By RICK BENTLEY
THE FRESNO BEE

LOS ANGELES—The debut of "Cars 2" as the No. 1 film at the box office last weekend continues Joe Mantegna's winning ways. He can add this success to being on one of the top-rated network TV shows, "Criminal Minds," and being part of the longest running animated series, "The Simpsons."

The Chicago native answered a few questions about his successful—and diverse—career that ranges from "The Godfather: Part III" to "Baby's Day Out."

Q: Would being the voice of a Gremlin—the AMC car and not a creature that shouldn't be fed after midnight—have been your first choice of car voices?

A: I had this conversation once with Warren Beatty when we were doing "Bugsy." We were saying, "If you were a car, what kind of car would you like to be?" Jokingly, I admit, we were probably ribbing each other a little when I said I would probably lean toward Italian—a Ferrari, Lamborghini. It kind of fits.

Q: Then why do you tend to pick German cars to drive?

A: I think it's because I was



MONTY BRINTON/CBS ENTERTAINMENT/MCT Emmy Award nominee Joe Mantegna has joined the cast of "Criminal Minds" as former member of the Behavioral Analysis Unit.

the voice of Mercedes-Benz for seven years.

Q: This isn't your first voice work. You have provided the voice of mob boss Fat Tony on "The Simpsons" for 20 years.

A: It's my longest-running character by far. I've been told I've done more episodes than any recurring character on the show. I did the voice in the third season and it was supposed to be for only one episode. Fat Tony became one of Springfield's most popular characters so they just kept bringing me back.

Q: Those have been fun jobs.

You joined the cast of the dark "Criminal Minds" in 2007 when Mandy Patinkin departed. Do you go home a frazzled, emotional wreck after a day on the set?

A: What people don't tend to understand is the experience of working on stuff doesn't necessarily parallel to what the material's about. When I'm making "Criminal Minds," as grim as the material is, the atmosphere on the set is not like that at all. You are talking a family-like atmosphere where we all like each other and have a good time. It's only those moments when you are doing the material that it gets heavy and serious. I am spending far more time on a set being Joe than I am being David Rossi.

Q: Can you talk about next year's "Criminal Minds" cast changes?

A: A.J. Cook will be back in the fall. And, there's a chance that Paget Brewster, whose character had gone into hiding near the end of last season, could return.

CRIMINAL MINDS

■ 9pm EDT Wednesday
■ CBS

Actor Josh Duhamel named honorary flood fund chair

MINOT, N.D. (AP)—Hollywood actor and Minot, N.D., native Josh Duhamel has been named honorary chairman of a fund set up for the city's flood recovery.

In a statement, Duhamel said he grew up in Minot and his sister and her family lost their home to flooding from the Souris River. Duhamel says he

would always consider the city home.

The fund will help Minot and the surrounding area with grants for construction materials, mortgage help, household items and other needs.

Duhamel stars in the film Sunday promoting the film.



Duhamel

"Transformers: Dark of the Moon," which opens Wednesday.

Niki Carlson, a program director for the Minot Area Community Foundation, which established the fund, says Duhamel was in Moscow on

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NOW SHOWING



Transformers: Dark of the Moon

Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00

Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Director Michael Bay returns to wreak more robotic mayhem in this third entry of the Transformers franchise. Penning the further adventures of the Autobots and Decepticons is Ehren Kruger, who co-wrote the second installment, along with Star Trek's Alex Kurtzman and Roberto Orci.



Cars 2

Thursday 1:05 4:05 7:05

Owen Wilson, John Turturro
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Ratatouille producer Brad Lewis steps into the director's chair for this sequel that follows race-tack legend Lightning McQueen and his trusty sidekick, Mater, as they secure their passports and prepare to take part in the biggest and fastest race on the planet.



Bad Teacher

Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25

Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

The film concerns a foul-mouthed seventh grade teacher who is dumped by her sugar daddy and starts to pursue a colleague, which provokes conflict with the school's model teacher.



Green Lantern

Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15

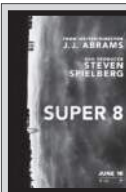
Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively
Action • Rated PG 13



Mr. Popper's Penguins

Thursday 1:20 4:20 7:20

Jim Carrey, Carla Gugino
Children's/family, Comedy • Rated PG



Super 8

Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30

Kyle Chandler, Elle Fanning
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13



X-Men: First Class

Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:10

James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender
Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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AP
In this magazine cover image released by Newsweek, a computer-generated image of Princess Diana is shown with Kate Middleton on the cover of the July 4, 2011 issue of Newsweek magazine.

Newsweek cover imagines Diana at age 50

NEW YORK (AP)—The latest Newsweek cover contains a ghostly sight: a computer-generated image of a stylish Princess Diana, as she might look now, walking with Kate Middleton.

The article inside was written by Diana biographer and long-time provocateur Tina Brown. She's also Newsweek's editor-in-chief, having taken over after her online publication, the Daily Beast, merged late last year with the decades-old publication.

"What would she have been like?" Brown writes of Diana, who would have turned 50 on Friday, nearly 14 years after her death in a Paris car crash. "Still great-looking: that's a given."

The magazine's new issue also features an imagined Diana Facebook page and a slideshow comparing the fashion styles of Diana and Middleton, who married Diana's oldest child, Prince William, in April. About the cover, a Los Angeles Times headline asked, "Shocking, brilliant or just plain cheap?" An Atlantic Wire headline added, "How Creepy Is Princess Diana's Ghost on the Cover of Newsweek?"

Brown's answer: Not at all.

"We wanted to bring the memory of Diana alive in a vivid image that transcends time and reflects my piece," she said in a statement Tuesday.

Judge orders Sheen wages docked for child support

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has ordered Charlie Sheen's former bosses to garnish \$55,000 a month for child support from any payments they make to the former "Two and a Half Men" star.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Hank Goldberg on Friday approved a request by Brooke Mueller Sheen to garnish any payments Warner Bros. Television makes to her ex-husband.

The former couple was divorced on May 2, about two

months after Warner Bros. fired Sheen from "Men." The actor and the studio have been fighting over payments ever since.

The hefty monthly payments are intended to support the Sheens' twin sons and were part of a divorce settlement they reached earlier this year.

The actor's spokesman Larry Solters declined to comment. Brooke Sheen's attorney did not immediately return a phone message.

America Ferrera weds longtime boyfriend

NEW YORK (AP)—America Ferrera is a married lady.

People magazine's website says the 27-year-old "Ugly Betty" star and longtime boyfriend Ryan Piers Williams were wed Monday night in "an intimate setting" with close friends and family in attendance.

A representative for Ferrera confirmed the report Tuesday.

Ferrera won an Emmy, a Golden Globe and a Screen Actors Guild Award for her portrayal of Betty Suarez on ABC's "Ugly Betty."

The couple met at the University of Southern California when Williams cast her in his student film.

They became engaged last year.



AP
In this July 27, 2010 file photo provided by StarPix, actress America Ferrera and her fiancé director Ryan Piers Williams arrive at the the 2010 New York International Latino Film Festival opening film "Day Land."

Gift ideas for lingerie shower are naughty as well as nice

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR READERS: On May 18, I printed a letter from a young woman who had been invited to a friend's lingerie shower. "Bringing a Blender in Montana" was uncomfortable with the idea of purchasing intimate apparel for the bride-to-be, so I suggested she bring a "high-necked flannel nightgown."

When I asked you readers to offer other gift suggestions, you responded with an avalanche of terrific responses. Thanks to all for your clever suggestions. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: One of the most unique bridal shower gifts I received was a set of pillowcases. Both cases had one side that read "YES" in big red letters. The reverse side of the bride's case said, "Not tonight, I have a headache." The other side of the groom's case read, "I have the aspirin."

PILLOW TALK 26 YEARS LATER

DEAR ABBY: "Bringing" could give her friend a set of cooking spices to "keep the spice in their marriage." The card should read: "Let your fantasies go wild when you have the 'thyme'!"

SPICE GIRL IN STOCKTON, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: For my granddaughter's lingerie shower, I gave her a generous check, a pair of men's dress socks and a note saying the socks were to replace the ones she'd knock off him when he saw her in one of her beautiful nightgowns. It elicited many chuckles from the guests.

STILL KNOCKIN' HIS SOCKS OFF

DEAR ABBY: I was given a gift basket, which included body lotion, bath salts, candles, chocolates and a romantic DVD. I enjoyed the gift basket more than the lingerie.

JUDY IN RAWLINS, WYO.

DEAR ABBY: We had a "useful utensil party" for my future sister-in-law. I gave her a nutcracker.

DEBBIE IN ALBION, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: When I attended my granddaughter's bridal shower, I wrapped some fig leaves with her gift and joked about her wearing them in case her closet ran short. She responded with, "Gramma!" It surprised her, but it brought a lot of laughs.

GRAMMA ON THE WEST COAST

DEAR ABBY: Lovely camisoles or slips, special mesh bags for washing fine items, scented lingerie detergent or pretty new slippers are all acceptable and appreciated gifts for starting married life.

DIANNE IN CARLISLE, PA.

DEAR ABBY: As a gag gift, she could give them a bottle of aspirin and some good reading material ...

BEEN THERE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: Four silk scarves, a leather whip and a can of whipped cream. This is all done in FUN!

HAVING A GOOD TIME IN THE EAST

DEAR ABBY: My dad said it didn't matter what my sister wore on her wedding night. She could wear a burlap sack and her husband would be happy. One of my aunts took his idea and made a burlap sack "nightie," complete with lace at the neckline and hem. My sister, who has a wonderful sense of humor, wore it on her wedding night. I'm sure it provided a good laugh and a fun way to end their wedding day.

HER BIG SISTER

DEAR ABBY: Packaged in a beautifully wrapped, fairly large box was one lace-and-ribbon bow with a note saying, "Wear only this on your wedding night."

WITH LOVE FROM GRANDMA

DEAR ABBY: My in-laws were married in 1940. She was 17; he was 19. For her shower, my mother-in-law received a beautiful full-length nightgown with fur trim around the bottom added by the giver. The card read: "To keep your neck warm."

IRENE IN ELIDA, OHIO

Lady Gaga sued over fundraising for Japan

DETROIT (AP)—Lady Gaga's spokeswoman says a lawsuit accusing the music star of misleading fans with an online pitch for donations to victims of the Japan earthquake is meritless.

Lady Gaga's website is selling \$5 wristbands that say, "We Pray For Japan." The website also allows people to make additional donations and says "all proceeds go directly to Japan relief efforts."

A lawsuit filed in Detroit

notes that sales tax and a \$3.99 shipping charge are added. Detroit-area attorney Alyson Oliver believes not all money is going to help the Japanese and she wants an accounting.

Lady Gaga's spokeswoman, Holly Shakoor, said Tuesday that no profit is being made on shipping costs. She says \$5 from each wristband is going to Japan.

The lawsuit seeks refunds for people who bought wristbands.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Attorneys say Mel Gibson's divorce nearly done

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An attorney for Mel Gibson's estranged wife says the former couple has nearly finalized their divorce. Attorney Laura Wasser told a judge Tuesday that the pair have resolved all their issues and are doing some "final polishes" on the paperwork. Wasser says the couple should have a judgment ready by Aug. 30. Gibson's attorney agreed with Wasser's assessment. Robyn Gibson filed for divorce in April 2009, just months before the Oscar winner's then-girlfriend gave birth to an infant daughter. He indicated in court filings that the couple separated in 2006. No details of how the couple's assets will be divided was discussed Tuesday, and Wasser indicated those details would remain private. The former couple have seven children together, but only one who is under the age of 18.

CNN's Jessica Yellin named White House reporter

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN has named Jessica Yellin as its new chief White House correspondent. CNN Washington bureau chief Sam Feist (fyst) said Tuesday that Yellin's "assertiveness along with her clever insight" has set her apart as a political reporter. Yellin has served as national political correspondent for CNN since January 2009. She joined the network as a Capitol Hill correspondent in August 2007. Prior to CNN, Yellin was a White House correspondent for ABC News, where she began in 2003. Before that, she was an overnight anchor and correspondent for MSNBC. In her new position, she replaces Ed Henry, who recently jumped to Fox News Channel.

Alan Rickman to return to Broadway this fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Another member of the "Harry Potter" franchise is returning to Broadway. This time it's Alan Rickman. Rickman, who won a Tony Award in the 2002 production of Noel Coward's "Private Lives," will star in the world premiere of Theresa Rebeck's new play, "Seminar," this fall. The production will open at a Shubert theater to be announced soon. Rickman, who plays professor Severus Snape in the "Potter" franchise, will portray a literary legend who teaches a private seminar for four young awe-struck writers. The play will be directed by Sam Gold. Rebeck's other plays include "Mauritius" and "The Understudy." Rickman follows "Potter" co-star Daniel Radcliffe to Broadway, where the younger man is belting out show tunes in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." Radcliffe made his Broadway debut in a revival of "Equus."

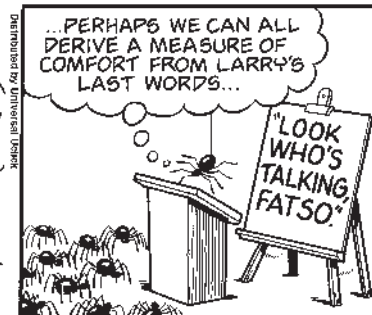
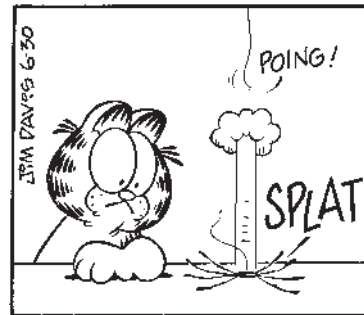
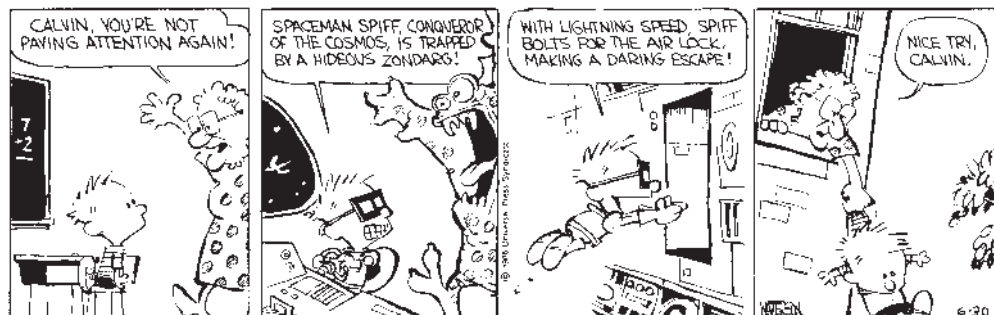
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

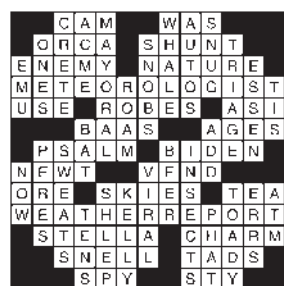


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Former larvae	55 Fender bender	11 Thickness
1 Destiny	37 Not working	DOWN	19 Remnant
5 Moment	40 Quest	1 Bambi	21 Copper head
8 Fellow	41 Mideast market	2 On the briny	23 Esteem
12 Pale	45 The same, in footnotes	3 From one end to the other	24 PBS science show
13 Expert	47 Ar follower	4 Offensive sight	25 Dangling site
14 Burglar's booty	49 Citrus fruit	5 Hit-by-a tomato sound	26 Advertising award
15 "The Way We —"	50 Freebie	6 Historic time	27 Trumpet
16 Legislation	51 Maiden name	7 Moo-ring device?	28 Bane
17 Black	52 Blissful place	8 Relax	32 Mitigates
18 Deep disgust	53 Favorable votes	9 Equalizer, as in golf	33 Bewildered
20 Hairless	54 D.C. VIP	10 Diving bird	35 Buddhist sect
22 Not working right			36 Sch. org.
26 Beet variety			38 Bactrian's pair
29 Flamenco cheer			39 "Peer Gynt" playwright
30 Opposed to			42 Staffer
31 Unrivaled			43 "So be it"
32 NBC fixture since 1975			44 Landlord's due
33 Macadamize			45 Unfriendly
34 Playwright Levin			46 1-Down's mama
35 Menagerie			48 Witness

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-30

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
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53					54				55			

STUMPED?

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fantasia Barrino, 27; Monica Potter, 40; Mike Tyson, 45; Vincent D'Onofrio, 52

Happy Birthday: Keep a lookout for any unusual turn of events that might affect your original plans. The key will be to think and act fast, precisely and with vision. There will be no time to take a break this year, if you are going to stay in the lead and accomplish your goals. Your numbers are 6, 9, 20, 28, 32, 36, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take action, do your thing and present and promote whatever you are into. Love is in the picture. Whether you are already in a relationship or looking for one, time should be put aside for socializing and romance. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The contacts you make by helping others will give you suggestions, leading to greater prospects. Expand what you already have to offer to include a wider demographic. It will bring you greater success. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Anxious, impatient behavior will lead to trouble. Don't let a business prospect turn negative because you are too aggressive or demanding. Taking the slow route and building a solid base for what you want to achieve down the road will be the best way to stabilize your financial future. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your erratic behavior well hidden. You don't want to send the wrong impression to someone who interests you personally or professionally. Dealing with institutions of any sort

must be done openly and honestly. Misleading someone will come back to haunt you. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a serious look at your current situation. You may want to make a change of location, lifestyle or philosophy. Discipline on your part can help you achieve your dreams, hopes and wishes. Love is in the stars. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Not everyone will agree with you or with what you want to do. It's best to stay under the radar, accomplishing as much as you can in secret. Once you get to a certain point, you will have a far better chance of getting other people on board. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on what makes you feel good about who you are and what you do. Love is on the rise and mingling with people who share your interests will be energizing. A change in your personal life may not be easy but it will do you good. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Enjoy your home, family and friends. Use your imagination and creativity to make wise choices and alterations to your surroundings, investments and your physical and emotional well-being. A partnership will bring you greater opportunities. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be anxious to make changes that will affect your home and family. Make sure that it won't be at the expense of someone you love or your own emotional well-being. Someone who interests you will have ulterior motives. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2			3			5		1
				9		2		
9	4							
				7				2
	9			2			6	
1				8				
						7	8	
3		2			1			6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	9	3	2	4	6	7	5
5	7	4	1	6	8	2	3	9
6	2	3	9	7	5	1	8	4
3	4	8	6	5	9	7	2	1
1	6	5	7	3	2	4	9	8
7	9	2	4	8	1	3	5	6
4	8	6	2	9	3	5	1	7
9	3	7	5	1	6	8	4	2
2	5	1	8	4	7	9	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let anyone pressure you into finalizing a decision before you feel ready and confident that you are doing what's best for everyone involved. A strong personal partnership will help you make the right decision. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Money matters are looking good. Greater prosperity through a gift, investment, residential move or winnings is possible. Love is highlighted. Self-improvement projects will bring great results. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Unexpected changes will leave you wondering what to do next. Don't let anyone know where you stand or what you are going to do. It's the element of surprise that will keep you in the game. A relationship with a lover or family member could be strained. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are creative and compassionate. You are unpredictable, adaptable and thrive on variety.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BREAKFAST IN BED

Solution: 7 letters

S	E	T	T	E	I	V	R	E	S	S	D	R	A	C
E	E	E	G	G	S	W	E	E	T	H	E	A	R	T
H	V	T	F	P	T	A	B	L	E	V	C	E	E	C
S	I	R	H	L	L	N	E	V	O	O	F	R	L	E
I	T	H	E	O	O	E	E	C	N	R	E	A	B	L
D	A	N	Y	S	U	W	A	V	E	D	A	W	A	E
E	E	C	E	A	D	G	E	S	E	S	R	R	B	
L	R	H	I	M	D	N	H	R	U	R	T	E	O	R
I	C	T	U	T	I	A	T	S	R	H	V	M	A	
C	Y	O	S	E	N	D	L	T	F	P	E	L	E	T
I	P	L	N	G	B	A	N	O	S	U	O	I	M	I
O	E	C	C	I	S	U	M	O	H	O	L	S	O	
U	E	N	I	F	F	U	M	O	C	H	A	L	P	N
S	L	Y	R	E	L	T	U	C	R	E	L	T	U	B
A	S	N	E	R	A	W	R	E	N	N	I	D	C	D

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6/30

Atmosphere, Butler, Cards, Celebration, Cloth, Condiments, Convenience, Cool, Cover, Creative, Cups, Cutlery, Delicious, Dinnerware, Dishes, Eggs, Event, Feast, Flowers, Full, Holiday, Memorable, Mocha, Muffin, Music, Order, Oven, Pleasure, Refreshing, Romantic, Serve, Serviettes, Silverware, Sleepy, Stand, Sweetheart, Table, Thoughtful

Yesterday's Answer: Coding

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSIE ESCARLAN ARRIOLA AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF JAYSON ESCARLAN ARRIOLA	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0236	NOTICE OF HEARING
Minor Child		
by		
JOSIE ESCARLAN ARRIOLA		
Petitioner		

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Josie Escarlan Arriola, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja on the 7th day of July, 2011 at 10:30 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Elphidia Agumon Manalo
P.O. Box 7355 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 256-1560

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF MICHAEL JESSE AGUON MANALO, KAYSHA SHEVONE AGUON MANALO, DEMI ROSE MANALO MIONES, BRADLEE MIKEL MANALO, RITA ELPHIDIA MANALO and KYLE A. MANALO	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0235	NOTICE OF HEARING
Minor Children		

By

ELPHIDIA AGUON
MANALO
Petitioner

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named minor children by Elphidia Agumon Manalo, Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guam Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja on the 7th day of July, 2011 at 10:30 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Reynaldo O. Yana
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 500052
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-6529

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE CUSTODY	CASE NO. 11-0206-PCD
OF: JOHN RYAN SIMAN MONDANO (a minor child),	
BY: FLORENCIA SIMAN SALTIN (maiden name: Florencia Miran Siman),	SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
Petitioner,	
vs.	
JOSE ARIEL GUILLERME MONDANO, Respondent.	

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file an answer you wish to make to the petitioner's complaint, a copy of which is in the file with the Clerk of Courts or in the file with the Attorney General, within twenty (20) days from the date of the fourth publication of this summons by publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to REYNALDO O. YANA, the petitioner's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 500052 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk if Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the plaintiff's complaint.

By the order of the above Court.

Bernadita S. Sablan, Clerk of Courts
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court
Dated this May 31, 2011

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Saipan Tribune

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Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2011 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Public Comments

B. Public Hearings

- House Local Bill 17-26 – Section 2. A review of each rezoning proposal in Section 2 of the bill and staff’s recommendation to the Board.
- House Local Bill 17-26 – Section 3. A review of the rezoning proposal in Section 3 of the bill and staff’s recommendation to the Board.
- House Local Bill 17-26 – Section 4. A review of the text amendments to the “Permitted Uses” Table of Article 4 in the Zoning Law. Staff’s recommendation to the Board.

C. Communications

D. Old Business.
None

E. New Business.
None

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

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Sharapova wins easily to return to Wimbledon semis



WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Maria Sharapova's coach called

it "a statement."

For exactly one hour of excellence, Sharapova played—and sounded—exactly the way she did when she was a teenager, when it seemed nothing could stop her.

Those powerful-as-ever groundstrokes cut through the grass, landing right where she wanted. Those solid-as-ever service returns flummoxed her overmatched opponent. And those loud-as-ever shrieks bounced around Centre Court, its retractable roof shut to keep out the rain.

Simply put, Sharapova dominated 24th-seeded Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia 6-1, 6-1 Tuesday to reach the Wimbledon semifinals for the first time since 2006—back in the days before she needed surgery to repair her right shoulder and dealt with doubts about the future of her career.

"I would have loved for it not to have taken that long, but I'm not complaining. It's the road that you sometimes have to take. It's not always straight; there are a lot of zigzags. A lot of time, you feel like it's a dead end," said Sharapova, who won her first Grand Slam title at age 17 at Wimbledon in 2004.

"I've worked really hard to get in this stage, but I'm not saying this is where I want to end," she added. "I want to keep going."

A day after the Williams sisters and No. 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki were sent home, the three women responsible for those upsets all lost:

■ Cibulkova, who beat Wozniacki, held serve to open her match against Sharapova, then dropped the next eight games in a row;

■ No. 9 Marion Bartoli, who beat Serena, faded down the stretch and was defeated 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-1 by wild-card entry Sabine Lisicki, the first German woman to reach Wimbledon's semifinals since Steffi Graf in 1999;

■ No. 32 Tsvetana Pironkova, who beat Venus, was eliminated 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2 by No. 8 Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic, a semifinalist for the second consecutive year.

On Thursday, Sharapova will meet Lisicki, and Kvitova will face No. 4 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, who got to her first Grand Slam semifinal with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over unseeded Tamira Paszek of Austria in the day's last match.

"Looking at the rankings, everybody says, 'You should have been already in the semifinals,'" said Azarenka, who moved to the United States when she was 12 and now lives part of the year in Arizona. "It was a great win



Russia's Maria Sharapova celebrates defeating Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova in their match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Tuesday, June 28, 2011.

for me."

Her quarterfinal was suspended because of rain after one game outdoors on Court 1; they eventually were moved indoors at Centre Court.

"I'm glad we managed to play today," said Azarenka, whose highlight was a full-sprint forehand that curled around the net post and landed in for a winner. "Thank God for the roof again. It's just amazing."

A heavy storm during the Lisicki-Bartoli quarterfinal violently pelted the roof, drowning out the normal noises of tennis, including rackets hitting balls, and line judges' calls. During the second game, one particularly loud thunderclap startled Lisicki as she was about to serve. She flinched and stepped off the baseline, then smiled sheepishly.

"Yeah," Lisicki said, "that

was a little bit different."

Sharapova was Tuesday's only participant with a Grand Slam title already on her resume. She has three, part of a quick rise to the top of tennis: ranked No. 1 at 18; 2006 U.S. Open champion at 19; 2008 Australian Open champion at 20.

But her shoulder operation in October 2008 not only kept her away from the tour for several months, it also forced

her to tinker with her service motion and made her question when she'd again play as well as she once had.

Sharapova went more than three years between Grand Slam semifinals, until getting that far at the French Open earlier this month. Now she wants another major title.

"It's great, the fact that I've had the experience of being in those stages. But I haven't

been for a while, so it's a nice and refreshing feeling to have," Sharapova said. "I've put a lot of work in."

The first game Tuesday was the only time Cibulkova held serve; Sharapova broke her six times.

Hitting deep, flat forehands and backhands, Sharapova finished with a 23-3 edge in winners, marking most with a high-pitched shriek. She limited herself to 10 unforced errors, one fewer than Cibulkova, who beat Sharapova in the 2009 French Open quarterfinals.

All in all, according to Sharapova's coach, Thomas Hogstedt, "It was a statement."

"It's been, I think, a struggle for the last few years," Hogstedt said, "and step-by-step, she has been working hard to come back. ... It's been a process. I don't think she believed this (would happen) a half-year ago."

When her victory over Cibulkova ended, 60 minutes after it began, Sharapova raised both arms and yelled, "Come on!" Leaving the court, Sharapova pulled out a pink pen, ready to offer the autographs being requested by fans in front-row seats.

Clearly, she's done this all before.

Given what she went through the past few years, a Wimbledon championship now would be more gratifying than past accomplishments.

"Absolutely," Sharapova said, "it would mean more to me."

Cheney, Buehler score as US beats North Korea, 2-0



DRESDEN, Germany (AP)—Once, twice, three times and then a fourth, Lauren Cheney launched a shot with her foot only to watch it go right into the hands of the North Korean goalkeeper.

Finally, she used her head. And just like that, the Americans looked more like a team that could contend for a third Women's World Cup title than the one that took a self-described "bumpy" road to Germany.

"I wasn't frustrated," said Cheney, whose goal in the 54th minute sparked a 2-0 win over North Korea on Tuesday. "I knew if I kept going, I'd get one. I'm pretty happy I did."

So did her teammates. After hearing about their inconsistency and shortcomings for months, the win in their tournament opener gave the Americans a needed dose of confidence. When the final whistle sounded, the U.S. reserves ran onto the field to celebrate while the North Koreans stood just beyond midfield, watching.

It was the fourth straight time the teams had met in group play at the World Cup, and the Americans have won

all the games but one. The Americans now face Colombia, which lost 1-0 to Sweden, on Saturday in Sinsheim.

North Korean coach Kim Kwang Min blamed his team's failings in the second half on a June 8 lightning strike during training in Pyongyang that sent "more than five" players to the hospital. Goalkeeper Hong Myong Hui, four defenders and some of the midfielders were the players most affected, Kim said.

"The physicians actually said the players were not capable of playing in the tournament," Kim said through an interpreter. "They're not physically ready for this match, but they had a strong will."

The North Koreans didn't seem as if anything was amiss, nearly matching the Americans in possession (53 percent to 47 percent) and getting seven shots on goal. And the lightning strike seemed to catch everyone off-guard, with the FIFA media officer at the venue saying she had no knowledge of it until Kim's postgame news conference.

The young North Koreans—only two had played in a World Cup before—looked pretty good in the first half. The Americans started the game strong, controlling play with

crisp passing and good speed. But the North Koreans gained confidence as time went on, shutting down the U.S. attack in the midfield and repeatedly pushing forward in the closing minutes before halftime.

Kim Su Gyong took a shot from close range in the 34th minute, but U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo punched it away. Four minutes later, Song Jung Sun slid a shot right in front of the goal that Solo couldn't reach. No other Americans were there to clear it away—neither were the North Koreans—and Ali Krieger finally booted the ball to safety.

"The opening to any game, emotions are going to be flying, players are going to be flying, it's going to be ugly sometimes," Solo said. "It was a little sloppy at the beginning, but we weathered the storm."

U.S. coach Pia Sundhage told her players at halftime to take the ball outside and make more use of the flanks. The improvement was clear immediately.

Cheney, making her first start since March, had two shots caught by Hong in the first five minutes of the half. In the 51st minute, Abby Wambach took a sliding shot from the edge of

the 6-yard box, only to watch the ball sail over the net.

Finally, in the 54th, Wambach dribbled quickly up the left flank and took a step as if to move inside, spinning a North Korean defender around. Wambach dribbled a few more steps before chipping in a perfect cross that Cheney nodded past Hong.

"I'm actually not a very good header," Cheney said. "I just knew I wanted to redirect it back to the same place it came from."

It was Cheney's 14th goal in her 40th appearance for the United States.

"When Lauren scored that goal, it's obviously kind of like the monkey off your back," Wambach said.

The Americans practically camped themselves on North Korea's side of the field, with Wambach hitting the crossbar in the 65th and Amy Rodriguez putting a shot wide in the 73rd before Rachel Buehler scored the insurance goal in the 76th minute. A shot off the crossbar ricocheted back into the scrum and Carli Lloyd collected the ball and headed it to Buehler, who unleashed a monster strike with her right foot. Hong dove and stretched out her hand, but

she never got close and the ball rolled into the net.

It was the second goal of the defender's career.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to build confidence off this win," Buehler said.

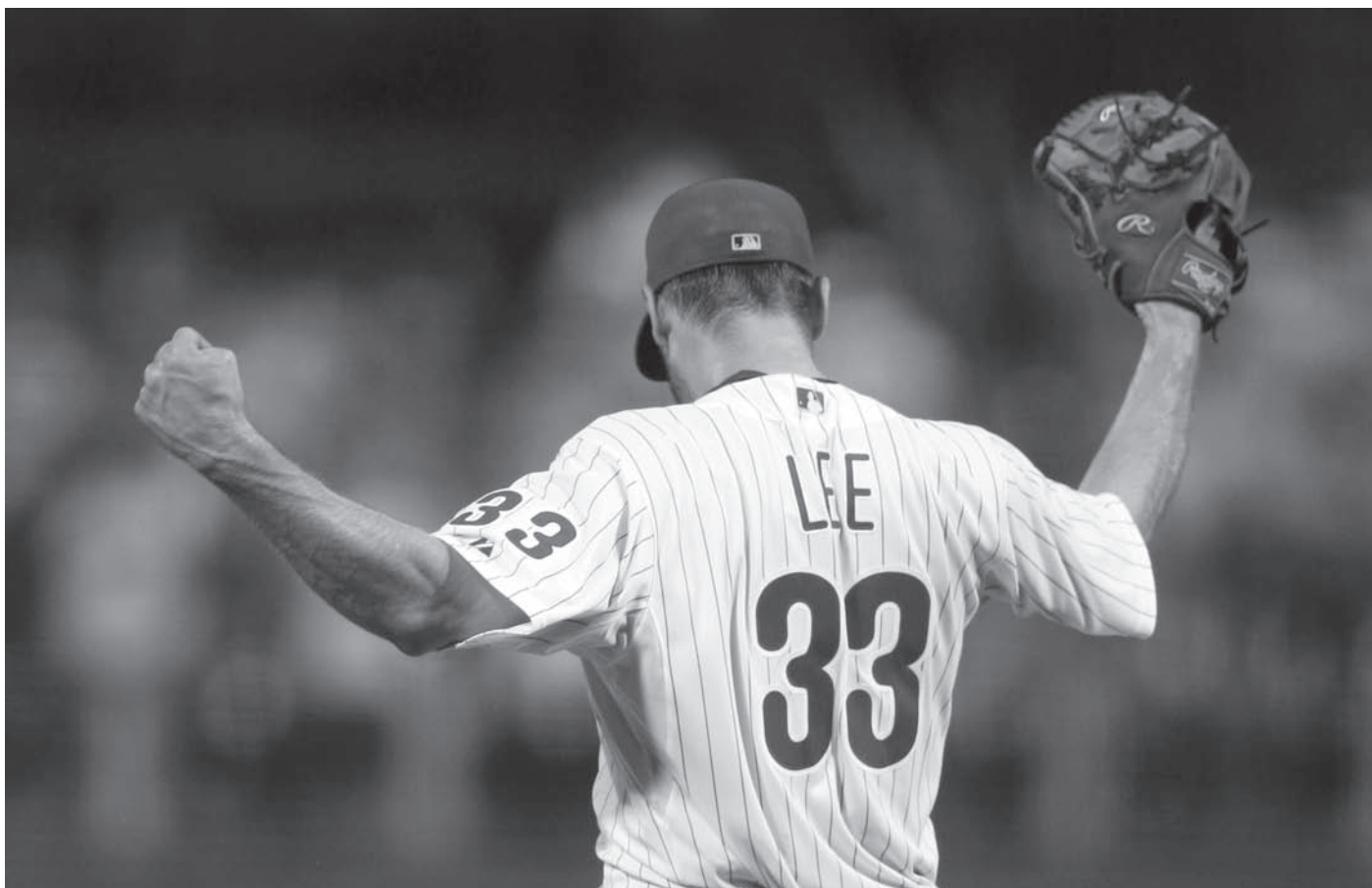
The Americans have heard plenty of criticism about their uncharacteristic inconsistency these last few months. After going more than two years without a loss, the U.S. dropped three games in five months. The Americans were stunned in the semifinals of regional World Cup qualifying by Mexico, a team that had been 0-24-1 against its northern neighbor. The U.S. had to win a home-and-home playoff with Italy just to get to Germany.

The United States lost to Sweden in the Four Nations opener, though it did go on to win the tournament, and was beaten by England for the first time since 1988.

But the Americans insisted they would be fine once the tournament started, and their victory over North Korea only reinforced that.

"It doesn't matter what happened in the past," Wambach said. "It's all about what's happening in this tournament, and that's what we're focused on."

Lee tosses 3rd straight shutout, Phils top Red Sox



Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Cliff Lee reacts after winning an interleague baseball game against the Boston Red Sox, Tuesday, June 28, 2011, in Philadelphia.



PHILADELPHIA

(AP)—Cliff Lee allowed just two hits for his third consecutive shutout as the Philadelphia Phillies beat Josh Beckett and the Boston Red Sox 5-0 in interleague play Tuesday.

In a series hailed as a potential World Series preview, Lee (9-5) and the Phillies dominated the opener.

Domonic Brown and Shane Victorino each hit a two-run homer for Philadelphia, which improved its major league-leading record to 50-30.

Lee didn't allow a hit until Marco Scutaro led off the sixth with a line-drive single to left-center. The left-hander ran his career-best scoreless streak to 32 innings with his ninth career shutout and fourth this year.

Mets 14, Tigers 3

At Detroit, Jason Bay and Carlos Beltran hit grand slams in

consecutive innings—after the Mets had gone nearly two years without one—and New York moved back above .500.

The Mets (40-39) have a winning record for the first time since they were 3-2 in early April.

New York had been without a grand slam since Angel Pagan hit one Aug. 1, 2009, before Bay and Beltran cleared the bases in the fourth and fifth innings off Daniel Schlereth.

Yankees 12, Brewers 2

At New York, Mark Teixeira homered and had four RBIs for the Yankees, and Nick Swisher hit a three-run homer to cap a five-run second inning.

From New York's first batted ball, when Nyjer Morgan got twisted up in center field and fell trying to catch Curtis Granderson's fly, the Brewers never appeared to get comfortable in their first trip to Yankee

Stadium since 1997.

Rays 4, Reds 3

At St. Petersburg, Fla., Evan Longoria hit a game-ending solo homer in the ninth inning to lift Tampa Bay to the win.

Cardinals 6, Orioles 2

At Baltimore, Kyle Lohse pitched five shutout innings in a performance shortened by rain, and the Cardinals got solo home runs from Colby Rasmus and Matt Holliday.

It was only the second win in seven games for St. Louis since three-time NL MVP Albert Pujols was placed on the disabled list with a broken left wrist. The Cardinals were off Monday after being swept at home in a three-game series against Toronto.

Pirates 7, Blue Jays 6

At Toronto, Alex Presley hit his first career home run, Andrew

McCutchen also went deep, and Pittsburgh held on for its first interleague road win in more than two years.

Kevin Correia (10-6) allowed four runs and five hits in six innings for the Pirates, who have won five of six. Correia is 8-2 with a 2.69 ERA in 10 road starts this season.

Twins 6, Dodgers 4

At Minneapolis, Luke Hughes hit a tiebreaking homer in the fifth inning and Minnesota snapped a six-game losing streak, rebounding from an embarrassing blowout to beat Los Angeles.

Rangers 7, Astros 3

At Houston, Josh Hamilton homered and pitcher C.J. Wilson tripled for his first major league hit in Texas' three-run third inning against Houston. The Rangers stretched their road winning streak over the

Astros to seven games. Houston has lost four in a row overall and seven of eight. Wilson (8-3) gave up two runs and seven hits in seven innings to win his fourth straight decision.

Rockies 3, White Sox 2

At Denver, Ty Wigginton singled with two outs in the 13th inning to score Troy Tulowitzki all the way from first and lift the Colorado Rockies past the Chicago White Sox.

Tulowitzki, who drew a one-out walk off Will Ohman (0-1), took off as Wigginton's flare dropped in shallow center field among three charging White Sox players.

Diamondbacks 6, Indians 4

At Phoenix, pinch-hitter Wily

Mo Pena hit a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning and the Arizona Diamondbacks recovered after J.J. Putz's second straight blown save to beat the Cleveland Indians.

Giants 13, Cubs 6, 1st game
Cubs 7, Giants 3, 2nd game

At Chicago, Pat Burrell and Aaron Rowand each drove in three runs and San Francisco won the first game in a day-night doubleheader.

In the second game, the Giants completed the sweep as Barry Zito threw seven strong innings to get the win, giving up four hits and two runs.

In the first game, Pat Burrell and Aaron Rowand each drove in three runs.

In Game 2, Nate Schierholtz had three hits and two RBI.

NBA BRIEFS

Thunder pick up options on Harden, Ibaka

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Oklahoma City Thunder have picked up the option year on the contracts of Serge Ibaka, James Harden, Eric Maynor, Byron Mullens and Cole Aldrich, keeping them all with the franchise for two more seasons. General manager Sam Presti announced the moves Tuesday, extending the contracts through the 2012-13 season. For Aldrich, who was a rookie last season, the option is for the third year on his contract. For the other four players, the option year is the fourth and final year on their contracts. As the No. 3 pick in the 2009 draft, Harden stands to receive the biggest payday at up to \$5.8 million under the NBA's pay scale from his rookie season.

Rockets pick up option on Goran Dragic

HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Rockets have picked up the team option for next season on backup point guard Goran Dragic. The 6-foot-3 Dragic joined the Rockets at the trade deadline last February in the deal that sent Aaron Brooks to Phoenix. Dragic played in 22 games, averaging 7.7 points, 2.5 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game. Dragic backed up Kyle Lowry, who averaged 13.5 points and a team-high 6.7 assists last season. Houston acquired point guard Jonny Flynn on draft night, and coach Kevin McHale said the trio will compete for playing time when training camp begins.

Bobcats pick Biyombo faces buyout dispute in Spain

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Charlotte Bobcats draft pick Bismack Biyombo and his Spanish club have scheduled

a mediation session Friday in hopes of settling a dispute over the contract buyout required before he'd be allowed to play in the NBA. Jorge Sanz, spokesman for the Madrid-based team Fuenlabrada, said Biyombo has two seasons left on his deal and his buyout clause is more than \$1.4 million. NBA rules say the Bobcats can't pay more than \$500,000 toward a buyout. While Sanz said the team has accepted and won't fight the 18-year-old Congo native's desire to leave, it expects to receive the buyout. "We have to reach an agreement over the compensation for the club," Sanz said. "On July 1 there is a mediation session. We are asking for the million euros that is stated in his contract. If we don't reach an agreement, it will go to court and a judge will decide."

Bobcats hire Werdann amid uncertainty with Oakley

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Charlotte Bobcats added an assistant coach for next season on Tuesday amid concerns Charles Oakley won't be able to return to the bench because of health issues. Coach Paul Silas announced former Golden State assistant Rob Werdann will join his staff. The former St. John's big man who played briefly in the NBA has also been an assistant in New Orleans. "I was told they were going to add a coach and I jumped at the chance," Werdann said. Oakley missed the final 13 games last season with a back problem he claims was caused when he was assaulted at a Las Vegas resort in May 2010. Oakley has sued the resort and said earlier this month he's contemplating surgery. Silas says he still hopes Oakley returns, but needed to make sure he had at least three assistants next season.

NBA players, owners to meet again Thursday



DALLAS (AP)—Representatives for NBA players and owners will meet Thursday, hours before the collective bargaining agreement expires, and Commissioner David Stern says that's still enough time for a deal.

Owners did not vote to authorize a lockout during their meeting Tuesday, but have given the labor relations committee the go-ahead to do whatever is necessary.

If a deal is not reached, owners could lock out the players when the CBA expires at the end of the day, though both sides have said negotiating could extend past the deadline if progress is being made.

"Nothing in this world is ab-

solute," Stern said.

Yet Stern wouldn't discuss the possibility of an extension.

"We're not talking about likelihoods, we're looking forward to Thursday's meeting. That will be great," he said.

Though a large group of players attended the last meeting, Thursday's session is expected to be only a small group from both sides. Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver said the league didn't know if the players would make another proposal after they declined to present one Friday.

Stern said it was the players' association's choice to wait until the last day before meeting again.

"We were prepared to go over the weekend, they said they knew we were meeting on Tues-

day, can we meet Wednesday or Thursday? We said fine, we can meet either or both, and they said Thursday. We said great," Stern said.

Owners were updated on the status of the CBA negotiations, as well as plans for expanded revenue sharing among teams, during their meeting. Stern said there are few firm details about the latter—which has frustrated the union—because it can't be completed until a new deal with the players is done.

"It's hard," Stern said. "We discussed principles, ideas and the like, but it's hard to complete one without the other."

Failure to reach a deal by the deadline could trigger the league's first work stoppage since the 1998-99 season was

reduced to 50 games. The sides remain far apart on financial issues and the players are opposed to owners' attempts to institute a new salary cap system.

"Well, I sure would like to see us make a deal, and not making a deal should give everybody apprehension," Stern said, "because the way to continue our growth is to come up with a deal that makes our union, that keeps our union as the highest-priced union in the world, the highest-paid union in the world, gives all of our teams the opportunity to make a profit and makes us a more competitive league."

"It sounds like the tripod for a win-win-win, and we'll have to see whether that's a possibility when we meet again with the players on Thursday."

Early exit for Minor, Jones in Fiji tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



CNMI's T h e a M i n o r and Rafael Jones both faltered in their opening matches in the 2011 Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji last Monday.

Minor, who had a bye in the first round of the 34-player draw, was pitted against New Zealand's Hine Elizabeth Wilson and lost in straight sets. The Commonwealth's junior netter fought hard in the first set only to lose in the end, 6-7 (6). After the close opening set, Minor ran out of gas and bowed to her

Kiwi foe at 6-3.

The 15-year-old Saipan Southern High School student was unranked in the tournament, while the 17-year-old Wilson was seeded at No. 15 and ranked as high as No. 1713 in the world. The New Zealand netter has 2.5 Junior ITF ranking points, while Minor attempted to gain ranking points, but failed twice. Minor also lost her opening match in a Junior ITF event in New Caledonia last week.

The tournament in Fiji was Jones' first Junior ITF event and he also dropped his opening game.

Jones was entered in the 42-player draw and did not get a bye in the first round. He was

paired against fellow unseeded player Robin Hao Nguy of Hong Kong and lost in straight sets, 1-6, 0-6.

The Saipan International School student also played in the doubles competition and teamed up with Kiribati's Tito Bira. The Micronesian duo drew a bye in the first round, but failed to advance to the quarterfinals when it bowed to No. 5 and New Zealand's Jake McCartney and James William Southon, 0-6, 2-6.

In the girls division, Minor teamed up with the Solomon Island's Amanda Korinihona and they lost to Hong Kong's Tsz Ching Cristy Chan and Man Ying Ng, 2-6, 3-6.

After the Junior ITF event,

Minor and Jones will stay at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Fiji to

Saracho sweeps Truggy class again in June race

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Jojo Saracho dominated the 1/8 Nitro Truggy class for the second time in a month after conclusion of the Saipan Radio Control Racers June race held in the rain last Sunday at its track in As Lito

Jude Dickinson took first place in the Open-class short course electric race for his third straight win, while Paul Salalila and Kurt Diaz won their respective A and B Main electric short course class races.

Rodney Catalla's Team As-



Members of Saipan Radio Control Racers drive their cars over the ramp at the As Lito track during last Sunday's monthly race.

sociated RC8T took the pole in the Truggy qualifier, but finished second in the finals to Saracho's Mugen MBX6T; Emir Abuan's Kyosho STRR came in the third place.

Dickinson's Traxxas-Slash car was also the top qualifier of the Open class field. Salalila's Kyosho Ultima SCR finished second place in front of Catala's Traxxas Slash.

Dickinson again won the pole in the Main-A class, but was booted off the podium in the finals by Catalla and third place finisher Leo Gatus; all four racers navigated Traxxas Slash cars.

Diaz's Traxxas Slash dominated the Main-B class field, ahead of Abuan's Team Associ-

when they compete in the 2011 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

ated SC10 and Vincent Sablan's Traxas Slash; Diaz was also deemed top qualifier heading into the final heat.

There are over 20 active SRCR members, and growing, which regularly take part in practices at the As Lito track every Saturday from 2pm to 6pm.

SRCR also tries to hold day-long monthly races usually on Sundays from 9am to 5pm in their two racing classes. The novice class was added because of the recent additional turnout. The public is welcome to check out the track to learn more about the hobby.

For more information, contact Rodney Catalla at 234-5911, 256-7119, or email drrc35@yahoo.com.

CNMI

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after more than three hours of visiting various facilities on Saipan yesterday.

Joining Minogue in conducting an inspection site to CNMI sports facilities was council president Vidhya Lakhan. Accompanying them were Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White and NMSA board members Tony Rogolifoi, Rose Igitol, Ed Salas, Jordan Kosam, and Jess Wabol.

The group started the tour at the Marianas High School to check the MHS Gymnasium and the Dolphins classrooms. The visitors also made stops at the Oleai Sports Complex, Hopwood Junior High School, Pacific Islands Club tennis courts, Coral Ocean Point Golf Course,

NMC Gymnasium, the proposed location for a new football field in Koblerville, Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, and Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

When asked to grade the CNMI facilities from 1 to 10 with the latter the highest, Minogue gave the Commonwealth an eight.

"I and the president have no specific criteria for each facility. We give a general overview and by just looking at the facility, we can already tell if one is fit for competition. You just need minor repairs and I believe it would not be difficult for the CNMI to do these renovations. There's no serious problem here as far as the facilities are concerned," Minogue said.

Among the facilities they visited, the executive director liked what he saw at the Oleai Sports Complex, while Lakhan was impressed with the well-kept

MHS Gymnasium.

"It's one venue that can host athletics, softball, baseball, basketball, football, and volleyball. The complex is also close to MHS, which is being proposed as an Athletes Village, so it will be convenient for the athletes," Minogue said.

"It is very nice," Lakhan noted when MHS Gymnasium's James Feger toured the group around the air-conditioned facility.

Lakhan and Minogue are first-time visitors to Saipan and the island was the last stop of their site inspection. They first went to Nauru mid last month and then Minogue checked on Vanuatu in the last week of May. Vanuatu is considered as the CNMI's toughest foe in the bidding contest for the hosting rights of the 2017 Pacific Mini Games, while Nauru is the dark horse among the three

bidding nations.

After their Saipan visit, the two officials will make an evaluation report of the three bidding countries and send it to the 22 members of Pacific Games Associations next week.

Then between next week until September, the CNMI, Vanuatu, and Nauru must submit a progress report to PGAs. The progress report is crucial as this may convince voting members that the bidder is doing the necessary steps to host a successful Mini Games.

Voting will be done on Sept. 4 in Noumea, New Caledonia during the 2012 Pacific Games. Each nation will be given 30 minutes to make their presentation and then the country to get 12 (majority) of the 22 votes wins the hosting rights. If no one gets the majority, a second round of voting will be in effect between the Top 2 vote getters.

MAJOR

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Jadrien Camacho.

The CNMI's Major All-Stars were not able to suit up in the 2010 ASPAC, never making it past the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila, Philippines after being listed as stand-by passengers.

Players in the team are also looking forward to play in neighboring Guam, citing their "home field" advantage in the U.S. territory.

"We like that [the ASPAC] is in Guam because it's close by and almost serves as a home field advantage for us...except when we have to challenge Guam," smiled Rokie Tenorio.

Tenorio hit four home runs in this year's Saipan Little League season and bagged a run and two RBIs in the CNMI district finals to defeat Tinian, 3-1, on Rota last month.

"We have been practicing since we came back from Rota and have been working on a little bit of everything," said Major All-Stars manager Chel

Castro at Tuesday's practice.

Castro's lieutenants in the dugout are Randall Agnon and George N. Camacho who will serve as head and assistant coaches, respectively.

Aside from the Camachos, Agnon, and Tenorio other members of the all-star squad are Jonathan Camacho, Nathan Camacho, Franco Nakamura, Perry Celis, Juden Joyner, Allen Cepeda, Robbin Virgil Secharmidal, Erik Cruz, Juan Quitugua, and Peterson Rengjil.

The team practices on Saturday mornings from 9am to noon

and on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4pm to 6pm.

The all-stars perform warm-up stretches and runs; warm up throws to loosen their arms; break into infield and outfield units for defensive drills; and practice base running. Pitchers and catchers break put in some bullpen work and they also routinely conduct batting practice during the sessions.

The ASPAC Majors tournament will be held from July 8 to 16 at the Guam Little League Northern Region Sports Complex.

BIG

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stick at the plate. Meanwhile, CNMI coaches are still trying to determine who will get the ball in Friday's finals.

Much like the first matchup, the game started out as another chess match as neither team touched home in the first four innings.

The CNMI then broke the ice with a run in the top of the fifth. Keoni Lizama started the engine

with a double to center field. He moved to third off a passed ball and was driven home by a Rocco Reyes' liner to center.

The Philippines answered with a run in the bottom frame, but the CNMI reclaimed the lead, 2-1, in the sixth inning. Juan Maratita smashed a base rip to right field and went to second off a passed ball. Eric Tenorio then brought him home with an RBI smash to left field.

But in the end, the Philippines rallied with two runs in the bottom frame and held off

the CNMI in its final stand.

CNMI pitcher Richard Dela Cruz gave up one run of four hits and four walks with a strikeout in five innings. Dave Jones came in for relief at the start of the sixth inning. He allowed a pair of runs off a hit and four walks; all three runs by the Philippines were unearned.

In batting, the CNMI's Maratita swung 2-for-4 with a run.

Notably, pitch counts were released from Monday's dou-

ble-header.

The CNMI's Guerrero split time with Joseph Palacios in the morning game against Guam, which the CNMI took, 6-1. Guerrero started and went 60 pitches before Palacios finished the game 51 pitches later.

Joshua Jones then led the CNMI to a 6-2 victory over the Philippines later that afternoon. He went 109 pitches before handing it off to Dave Jones to secure the save. CNMI batters went through four pitchers in the second game.

STRIKERS

From Page 28

came from the various football clubs that are playing in NMI-FA's youth league and eight of them participated in the same tournament in Guam last year.

The CNMI U15 strikers lost all their four games in Guam last year and failed to score a single goal in their EAFF debut. This year, Angeles is expecting a much-improved squad.

"Now, our players have matured. Their skills and their physical and their mental toughness also improved. We are playing against very strong teams so we focus more on defense, but this time I believe we have a very good chance in scoring, too," Angeles said.

"We are working more on stamina, ball control, and discipline. I told the players when they come to practices and scrimmages they should 100 percent, if not they can go home," the assistant mentor added. "The team is training five days a week, twice a day. They are also playing against

older players twice a week."

Salas agreed with Angeles' observation, saying the exposure in the tournament in Guam challenged the CNMI youth strikers to work harder on their game.

"Ten of the 18 players we are sending to Taipei are returning members of the 2010 U15 National Team, so we have a little experience, but our team is still a young one. We hope to have better results this year, but it will be very tough as all of the teams we will face are very skilled," Salas said.

The EAFF youth tournament will run from July 18 to 24 and the CNMI will meet first the host on July 20 at the Taipei Municipal Stadium. Korea, Hong Kong, Guam, and Macau are also entered in the week-long competition.

The Commonwealth strikers' next game will be against Hong Kong on July 21, then versus defending champion Korea (July 22), Guam (July 23), and Macau (July 24). The Top 2 teams after the round-robin contest will duel in the finals. Last year, Korea beat Hong Kong in the championship game, 3-2.

Tsunami Saipan at Flipper Tournament

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Participants line up for the start of the 2011 Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament last June 18.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers do their trademark cheer before plunging into the waters around Managaha Island.



Tsunami Saipan's Shigeki Tenorio sprints to the finish line.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers wait for the start of the event.



Hiroto Yanai, left, and Ryosei Toda, are all set for the race.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers and other participants wait at Smiling Cove Marina for an early morning boat ride to Managaha Island.



Tsunami Saipan's Angel de Jesus shows off her third place trophy.



Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura poses for a photo after receiving his first place prizes.



Tsunami Saipan's Angel Marie Tan shows her prizes for winning first place in the women's division.



Tsunami Saipan's Kaisei Toda receives the third place award in the men's division.

Sharapova wins easily to return to Wimbledon semis

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Lee tosses 3rd straight shutout, Phils top Red Sox

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI facilities make grade



Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan, left, and executive director Andrew Minogue, second right, are joined by CNMI sports officials in a site inspection of the Oleai Sports Complex yesterday.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's proposed facilities for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games have made the grade, according to visiting officials of the Pacific Games Council.

"The facilities are impressive. They have very good standards and I believe the CNMI has the capability to host the Mini Games," PGC executive director Andrew Minogue said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.
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CNMI Major All-Stars prepare for ASPAC



The CNMI Major League All-Stars take a break from practice and pose for a group photo last Tuesday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

CNMI U15 strikers off to Taipei

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI will compete anew in the East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament and will be sending an 18-player team to Taipei, Taiwan.

The CNMI U15 Team is composed of Jordan Butcher, Enrico del Rosario, Ethan Dickinson, Kenneth Domingo, Gregzon Fontanilla, Joel and Mason Fruit, Dakota Hall, William Hinson II, Kennedy Izuka, Hunter Jewell, Andrew Johnson, Angelo Jones, Jehn Joyner, Jake Lee, Sean Perez, John Taisacan, and Jirech Yo-

bech. Joining them in Taiwan are Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ed Salas, who will serve as NMIFA head official and team manager, assistant coach Jerish Angeles, and NMIFA officials Kentaro Imaaya and Carrie Schuler.

The 18 selected players
See STRIKERS on Page 26



Members of the CNMI U15 Team pose for a photo before their training session at the Oleai Sports Complex early this week. Also in the photo are NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas, standing left, and assistant coach Jerish Angeles, standing right.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The CNMI Major League All-Stars are gearing up to compete in the Asia-Pacific Little League Regional Tournament in Dededo, Guam after missing the competition last

year in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Only three players from that squad remain in the team's lineup this year—Craig Aguon, Jadrien Camacho, and Cedric Camacho—and the latter two said they are itching to compete this year after their missed opportunity in Indonesia in 2010.

"Of course we were upset for not getting to play last year, but

this is a new year. Right now we are just really excited to play in Guam and show everyone what we've got," said Cedric Camacho in an interview held during a break from Tuesday's practice held at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

"We're going over there to win it, too," added a confident

See MAJOR on Page 26

CNMI Big League All-Stars fall to PH, 2-3

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI Big League All-Stars fell to the Philippines, 2-3, yesterday, in Day 4 of the Asia-Pacific Big League Regional Tournament held at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium in Manila, Philippines.

The CNMI absorbed its first loss in three games as the hosts

spoiled the Commonwealth's run for a sweep. However, the CNMI will meet the Philippines again in tomorrow's finals at 11am (1pm Saipan time) as Guam, which is winless in three games, is out of the running. The Philippines finished its round-robin assignments with a 3-1 win-loss card. The CNMI is currently at 2-1, while Guam is winless in three matches.

The CNMI faces Guam today at 11am (1pm Saipan time) to complete its round robin. Nathan Guerrero is expected to take the mound against Guam.

Notably, CNMI ace pitcher Joshua Jones has maxed out his pitch count after Monday's first pairing with the Philippines. However he will still be in the lineup as the team needs his

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